PICK OF THE LITTER
by: YURIKO SUDA
2
TOKYOPOP

Vol. 2
by
Yuriko Suda

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# PICK OF THE LITTER

Yuriko Suda

Volume 2

***Pick of the Litter Volume 2***
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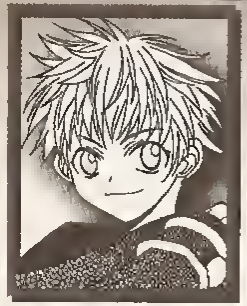
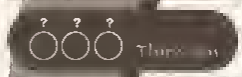
## Summary & Character Introductions

Riku Fukagawa is a middle school student whose family is missing, and who has no memories from before the age of ten. He was living a peaceful life, until one day, some guys claiming to be his long-lost brothers from Yamato (a whole other world!) showed up. Since then, Riku divides his time between Japan, and working part-time at a general store called Hiyokoya that his brothers run in Yamato. His days are full of ups and downs. ☆☆☆



### Shii
Fourth son

He's easygoing and aloof, but he's also quite the little schemer.



Third son

A problem child at Hiyokoya that Riku has yet to meet.

### Futaba
Second son

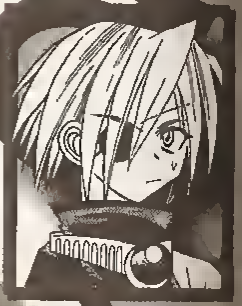
A mysterious member of the Usa-mimi Clan with the ability to connect Yamato and Japan.

### Konohana
Cousin

A capable girl who's a member of the Usa-mimi Clan. She doesn't have any magic though.

### Mio
Head clerk

Riku's father's cousin. He supports Hiyokoya on the management side of things.

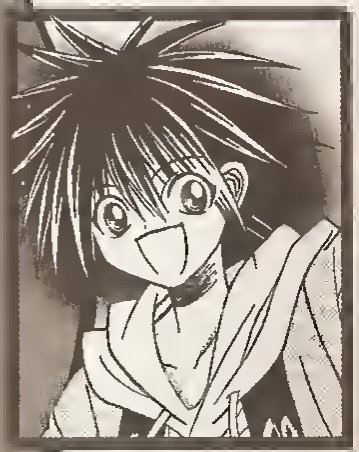


### Satsuki
Fifth son

He's a few months older than Riku, and he is not so great at speaking Japanese.

### Ichiya
Eldest Son

The young master of Hiyokoya. He is the oldest sibling and dotes on Riku.



### Riku
Sixth Son

In Japan, his name is Riku Fukagawa. He is a middle school student getting ready to take his high school entrance exams. He has a mysterious power that links him to holy spirits.

### Saika

A holy spirit with enormous power. He is normally sealed inside a stone that's shaped like a welcoming cat. He syncs up with Riku to display various powers, but his true power is yet to be discovered.

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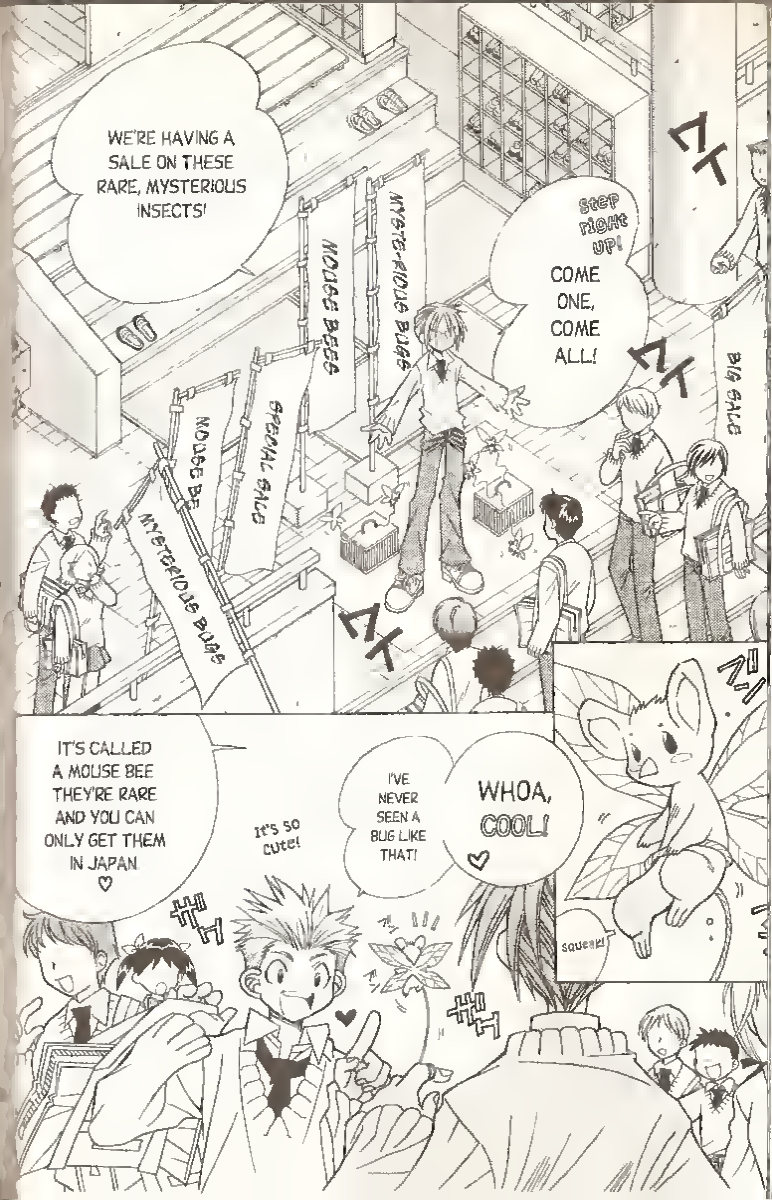
WOW!
SO THIS IS YOUR DORM. ☆
#15
RIKU FUKASAWA
KINDA ON THE SMALL SIDE.
WHY IS THE FIRST THING OUTTA YOUR MOUTH CRITICISM, SATSUKI?

Chapter 8
Echigoya Attack!

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
What are you doing?
I COULD EXPLAIN, BUT PEOPLE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND
THAT MY FAMILY IS FROM ANOTHER WORLD
I DON'T WANT TO LIE BUT...
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
Don't be stupid!
THE PHONE'S A BONUS.
I WORK HERE NOW! AT YOUR SCHOOL!
DON'T TELL ME YOU CAME JUST TO GIVE THAT PHOTO
AND WHERE'D YOU GET THAT UNIFORM?
TCH
Photo
YOU WANNA STAY IN JAPAN SO BAD YOU'D DO THAT?

WILL YOU PLEASE ASK BEFORE YOU TOUCH?
YOU DECORATE YOUR DESK WITH THESE?!
THESE ARE PICTURES OF THOSE CATS YOU HANG WITH!
Is this girl more into cats or is she obsessed with me, too?!
HEY!
SATSUKI WHY ARE Y--
THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM.
I get a double all to myself
OOH!
ARE THESE YOUR TEXT BOOKS?
I can't read a thing!
HERE!
ICHIYA-NII TOLD ME TO BRING IT TO YOU!
A FAMILY PHOTO!
HUH?
GOOD THING I CAME.
IN THIS WORLD, EVERYONE THINKS I HAVE NO FAMILY
SORRY ☆
DITCH THE CAT PICS AND PUT THIS UP
D'OH!
Taken just for you!

YOU'RE SELLING IT?
EEH?!
YEP, THEY'RE 100 YEN EACH. ♡
3-1
THERE'S BIG TROUBLE!
GUESS WHAT! FUKAGAWA KUN CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY, BUT..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME EVERY TIME! ☆
HEY! ☆
KAZUHA!

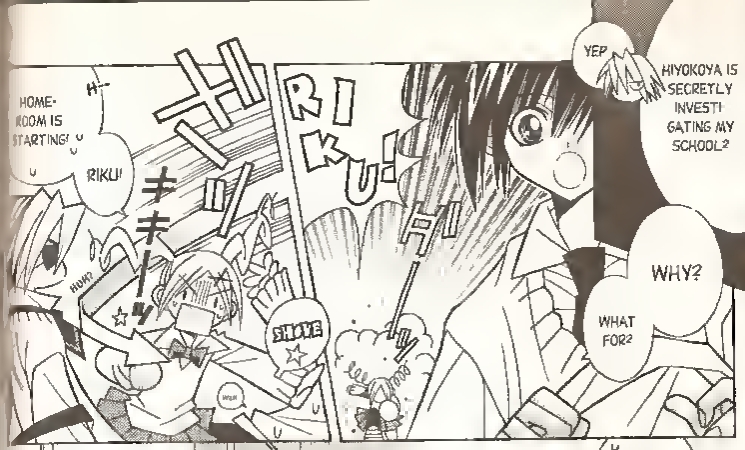

WE'RE HAVING A SALE ON THESE RARE, MYSTERIOUS INSECTS!
STEP RIGHT UP! COME ONE, COME ALL!
MYSTERIOUS BUGS
MOUSE BEES
SPECIAL BUG
MOUSE BEE
MYSTERIOUS BUGS
BIG SALE
IT'S CALLED A MOUSE BEE THEY'RE RARE AND YOU CAN ONLY GET THEM IN JAPAN ♡
It's so cute!
I'VE NEVER SEEN A BUG LIKE THAT!
WHOA, COOL! ♡
Squeak!

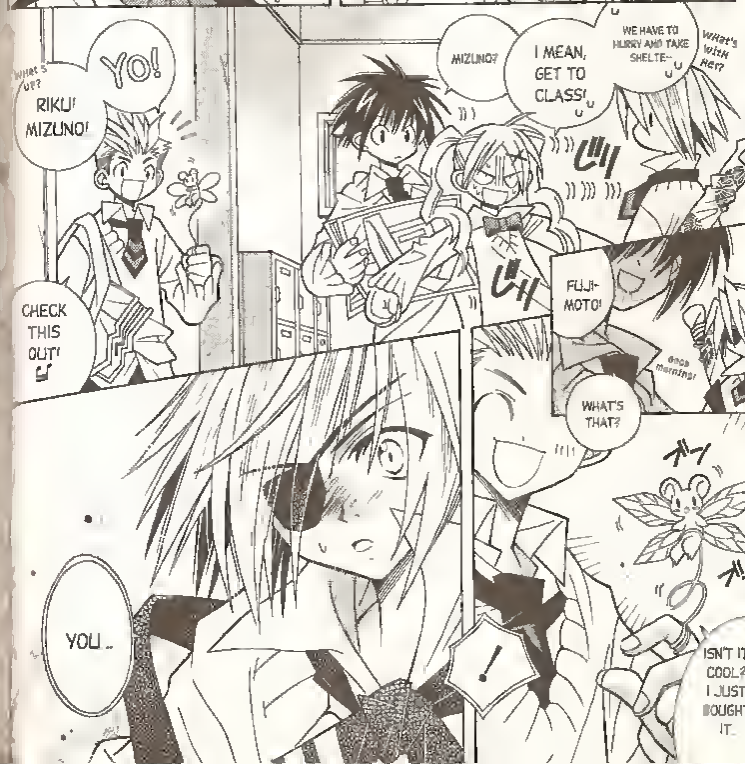
キョロ キョロ
RATTLE
Boys' Bathroom
キョロキョロ
BY THE WAY...
QUIT STARING!
I HAVE A PHRASEBOOK.
SO YOU STILL CAN'T SPEAK JAPANESE!
EGP!
A foreign language!
YAMATO
HAVE YOU SEEN ANYBODY SUSPICIOUS?
FINISHED
WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
Replies vary
かちょー
This must mean—
...RIKU'S HANGING OUT WITH THE WRONG CROWD!
Hey, hey!
HE'S WEARING AN EYE PATCH.
IS HE A PIRATE?
HE LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.

Stepping on the heel
ナニ!
NO, NO
IT'S A BOY.
YOU MEAN HE'S WITH A GIRL?!
GASP!
That's not it
FUKAGAWA-KUN IS WITH A—
You like it when she tells you...
Silver hair
Eye patch
Wear on?
ナニ
ナニ
.....
He's scary...
Is he a foreigner?
Is his hair dyed?
What's that?
Yamatoan
WHAT ARE THEY STARING AT?

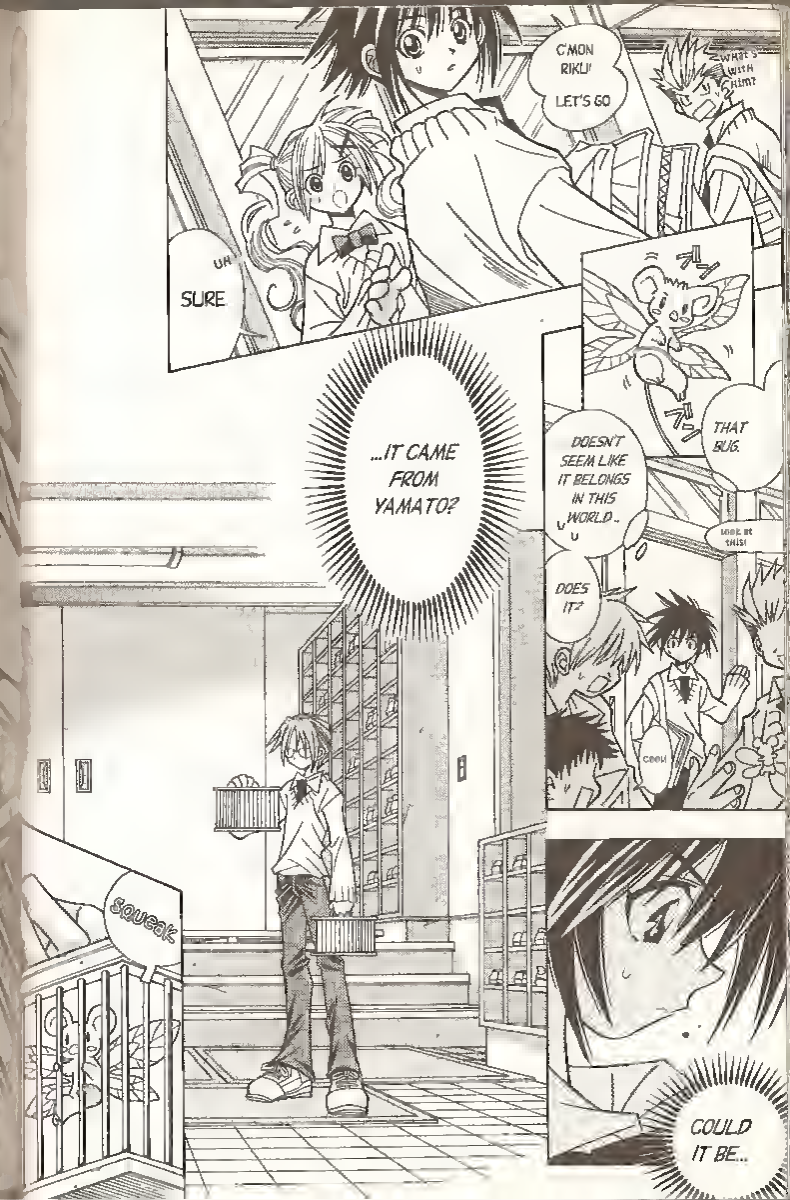
HUH? THIS BUG?
Let's see... "Where did you buy that..."
I BOUGHT IT IN FRONT OF THE GYM
Interpreter
Homework
flip flip
WAAAAH!!
A FOREIGN LANGUAGE?!
tug
WHERE DID YOU GET IT?!

THE GYM?
Masters
SATSUKI?!
DON'T GO NEAR THAT BUG!


HOME-ROOM IS STARTING!
RIKU!
HUH?
SHAVE
RIKU!
YEP
HIYOKOYA IS SECRETLY INVESTIGATING MY SCHOOL?
WHY?
WHAT FOR?


What's up?
YO!
RIKU! MIZUNO!
CHECK THIS OUT!
MIZUNO?
I MEAN, GET TO CLASS!
WE HAVE TO HURRY AND TAKE SHELTER
What's with her?
FUJIMOTO!
good morning!
WHAT'S THAT?
YOU..
!
ISN'T IT COOL? I JUST BOUGHT IT.

HUFF!
KNOCK IT OFF!
BULLYING US LIKE THAT..
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO BUSINESS HERE, YOU KNOW?
I COME ALL THIS WAY TO CHECK THINGS OUT AND WHO DO I FIND BUT YOU!
HIYOKOYA-SAN
YOU CAME HERE TO SELL STUFF...
DON'T TRICK PEOPLE INTO BUYING SOME PEST YOU PICKED UP SOMEWHERE ☆
JERK
...ECHIGOYA?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET
HEH HEH HEH!
WHAT?!


C'MON RIKU!
LET'S GO
UH SURE
...IT CAME FROM YAMATO?
SQUEAK
THAT BUG.
DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT BELONGS IN THIS WORLD..
DOES IT?
COULD IT BE...

PHEW!
SUUUUUCK
SUCCCCCK
UWAAAH?!
CACKLE
CACKLE
FUJI-MOTO!
IT'S GETTING BIGGER!
?!
IT JUST SUCKED MY BLOOD!
R-R-R-RIKU!
EEP!
WHAT IS THAT?
FUJIMOTO
YEAH? IT'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW
ABOUT THAT RUG...
...WORRYING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING.
I CAN'T STOP...
THAT'S IT FOR HOME-ROOM
DONG
DING
OH!
IT'S AWAKE.
GRRR...
GRRRUMBLE
ZZZ
ZZZ
CUTE, ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE RIGHT
SURE IS EASY-GOING
キョロ キョロ
?
IT'S LOOKING FOR SOMETH--
CLAMP

GUTSY
SWISH
AH...!
SATSUKI..
SO THAT BUG IS REALLY FROM YAMATO..?
YEP.
WEL-COME.
THERE'S TONS OF 'EM CRAWLING AROUND IN THE MARSHLAND!
HISS!
WHAT IS ECHIGOYA TRYING TO DO?
IT'S COMING BACK!
WAAAH!
RIKU!
EEEEEP!
HUFF! HUFF!
SATSUKI!
MAKING ME RUN AROUND FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!
DAMN YOU, ECHIGOYA!
HUFF!

HIYOKOYA JUST WANTED TO CHECK OUT ECHIGOYA'S BUSINESS
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
HISSSS!
I don't have enough!
After I'd saved up so much!
YOU AREN'T GOING TO DO ANYTHING?
YOU'RE LETTING HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS?
I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY SCHOOL LIKE THIS!
IT'S NOT ABOUT LOSS OR GAIN.
WHY SHOULD WE HAVE TO...
...MAKE OURSELVES OUT TO BE POPULAR?
Hm?
We'll be a hit!
WE COULD SELL BUG SPRAY AND INCENSE DIRT CHEAP FROM HIYOKOYA
WELL...
?
...THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?
IS JAPAN...

OH... DIDN'T I MENTION? MOUSE BEES GET MEAN ONCE THEY'RE FED
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE BUGS YOU SOLD US!
HERE, USE THIS
SOMETHING IS THE MATTER!
HISS!
HISS!
KILL IT IN ONE GO
SOME THING THE MATTER?
BUG REPELLENT INCENSE
PERFECT FOR NASTY INSECTS! BUG SPRAY AND BUG-REPELLENT INCENSE!
JUST THREE THOUSAND YEN FOR THE SET! ♡♡
I GET IT!
SO THAT WAS THE PLAN!
BUT THEY'LL SUCK OUT BLOOD!
THAT'S TOO MUCH!!
PAT
DON'T ADMIRE HIM
I'M GOING HOME
BYE, RIKU!
WAIT!

THEN I'LL JUST GET THIS OVER WITH
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE THINKING
I'LL PAY FOR IT, SO...
...WILL YOU LET ME BUY SOME BUG SPRAY FROM HIYOKOYA?
SATSU-

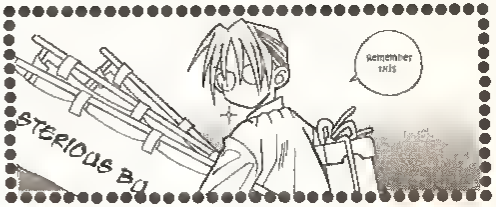
I SAID TOO MUCH
I THINK
I...
SATSUKI...
I'M SORRY
YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
I SHOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO FEEL LIKE I DO
YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER WORLD, TOO, Y'KNOW!
IT IS, ISN'T IT?!
SO, GO AHEAD! LIVE IN JAPAN
...AND PRETEND YOU DON'T HAVE A FAMILY!

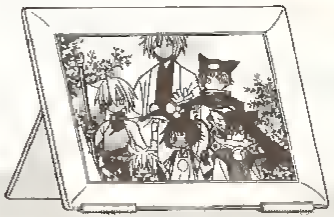
SATSUKI
I'LL LET YOU HAVE THIS ONE..
ARE YOU
..TRYING TO MESS WITH OUR BUSINESS?
MAYBE.
And you're stubborn
..SINCE I HAVE SENIORITY.
EH?!
DON'T MOVE!
HIYOKOYA!
WHOA!
BURN IT, JUST IN CASE
?
.....

Chapter 9

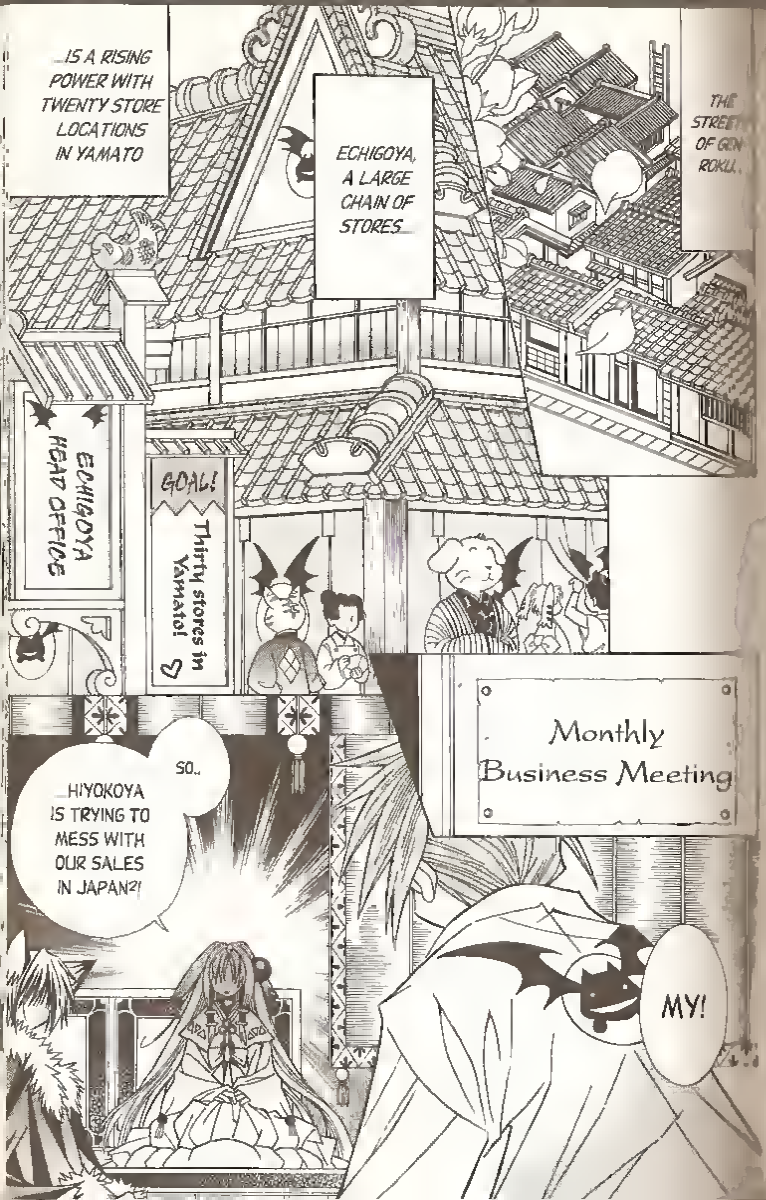
# Enter the Young Lion

IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER BUGS WE'VE GOTTA GET RID OF 'EM!
LET'S GO RIKU!!
YEAH!
THANKS SATSUKI!
YOU'RE THE MAN!
Yeah, yeah.
the younger ones are always trouble



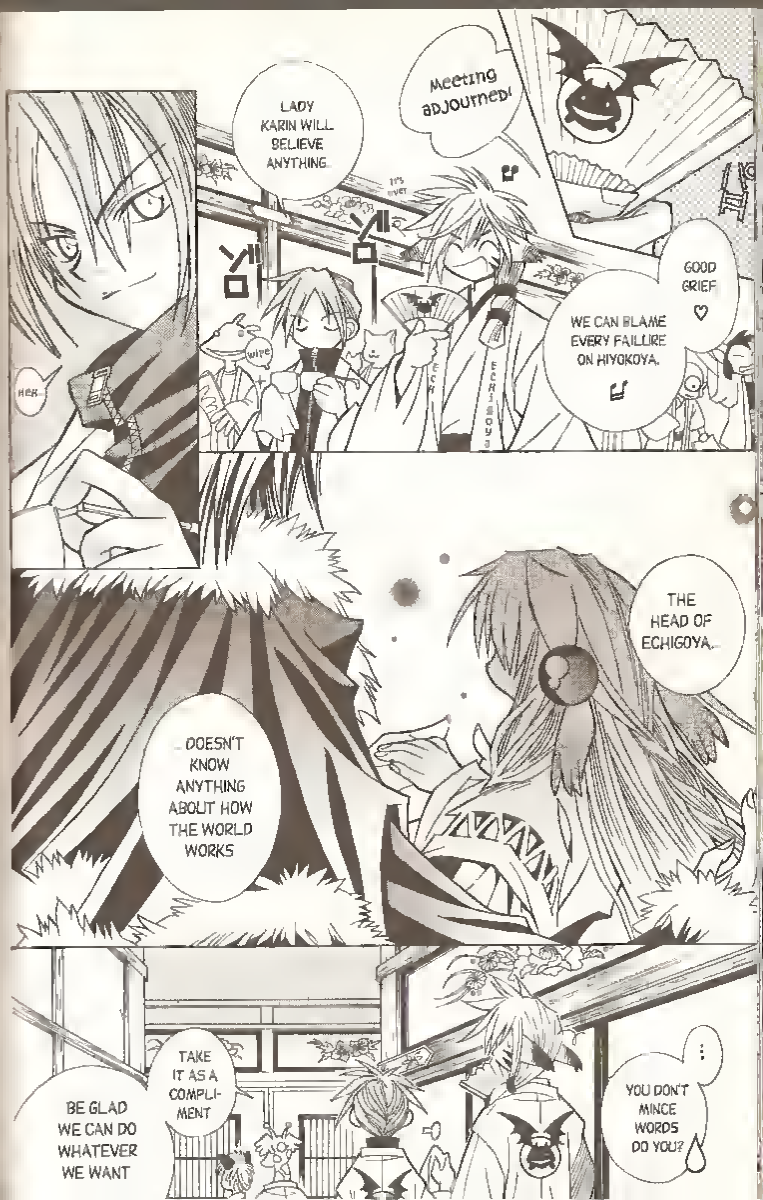
★End of Chapter 8★


...IS A RISING POWER WITH TWENTY STORE LOCATIONS IN YAMATO
ECHIGOYA, A LARGE CHAIN OF STORES...
THE STREET OF GEN ROKU...
ECHIGOYA HEAD OFFICE
GOAL!
Thirty stores in Yamato!
Monthly Business Meeting
SO..
...HIYOKOYA IS TRYING TO MESS WITH OUR SALES IN JAPAN?!
MY!

I WILL REPRESENT ECHIGOYA AND GO HAVE A TALK WITH HIYOKOYA
I UNDERSTAND.
MY LADY!
YOU MUSTN'T!
THEN I..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT A THING, LADY KARIN
LEAVE EVERYTHING CONCERNING THE STORE TO ME, THE HEAD CLERK AND YOUR EMPLOYEES
BUT...

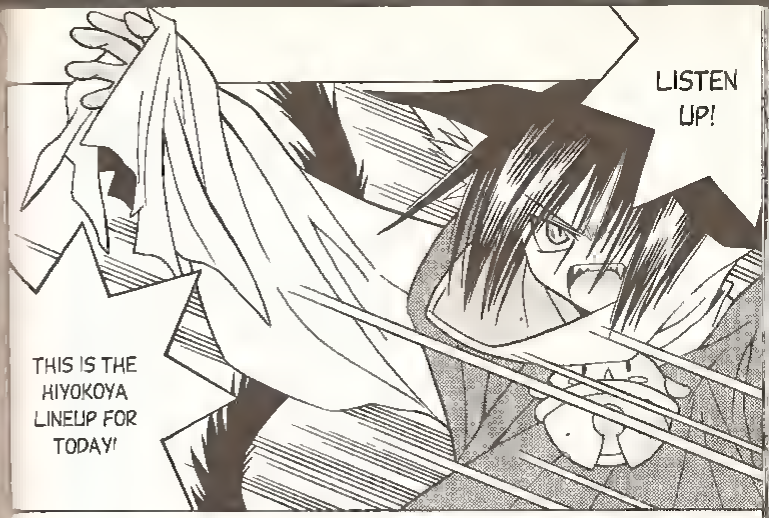
THE ADORABLE MOUSE BEES I BROUGHT..
YES
WERE BEATEN AND SQUASHED BY THAT DAMNED HIYOKOYA
THERE'S TIGHT!
AND THE TIME WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT STONE WELCOMING CAT!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WAS AFRAID OF THE STONE'S CURSE AND MADE THEM TAKE IT!
WE WERE BOTH UP TO OUR NECKS IN REPORTS
OUR PRECIOUS CAT WAS STOLEN BY HIYOKOYA!
ECHIGOYA

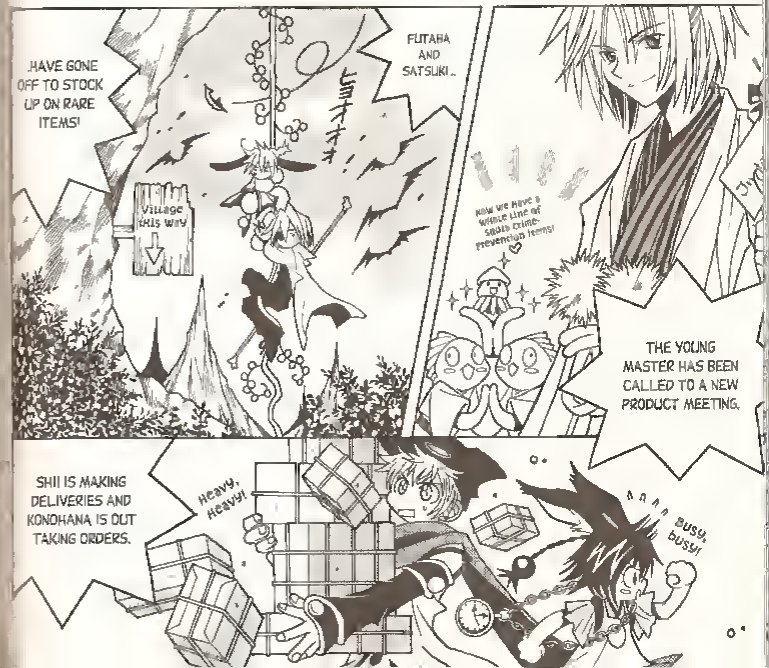
PART-TIMER!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!
HUH?
Hiyokoya Store


Meeting adjourned!
LADY KARIN WILL BELIEVE ANYTHING.
GOOD GRIEF ♡
WE CAN BLAME EVERY FAILLIRE ON HIYOKOYA.
HER.
THE HEAD OF ECHIGOYA.
...DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HOW THE WORLD WORKS
TAKE IT AS A COMPLI-MENT
BE GLAD WE CAN DO WHATEVER WE WANT
YOU DON'T MINCE WORDS DO YOU?

AND THAT LEAVES YOU TO TEND THE STORE!!
MEU. THE PERFUMERY'S SCENT!
ME?
HN.

Heckler
SO, HE'S THE TYPE TO GET PUMPED IN TIMES OF ADVERSITY!!
I'll do my best!
ALL RIGHT!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
sense of duty
DON'T GO WITH STRANGERS
Like he's a kid.
DON'T BE TRICKED BY HAGGLERS!
BUT DON'T FORGET TO TAKE THE MONEY WHEN YOU SELL SOMETHING!
WE'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
I'll buy you a souvenir.
THEY... THEY DON'T TRUST ME AT ALL.


LISTEN UP!
THIS IS THE KIYOKOYA LINEUP FOR TODAY!


...HAVE GONE OFF TO STOCK UP ON RARE ITEMS!
Village this way
FUTAHA AND SATSUKI...
Now we have a whole line of Squib crime-prevention items!
THE YOUNG MASTER HAS BEEN CALLED TO A NEW PRODUCT MEETING.
SHII IS MAKING DELIVERIES AND KONOHANA IS OUT TAKING ORDERS.
Heavy, heavy!
Busy, busy!

Flying Goods Delivery
ECHIGOYA EXPRESS
HEAD CLERK-SAAAN!
HM?
DID WE BUY ANYTHING FROM ECHIGOYA?
NEVER!
ECHIGOYA EXPRESS
WHOA!
THUMP

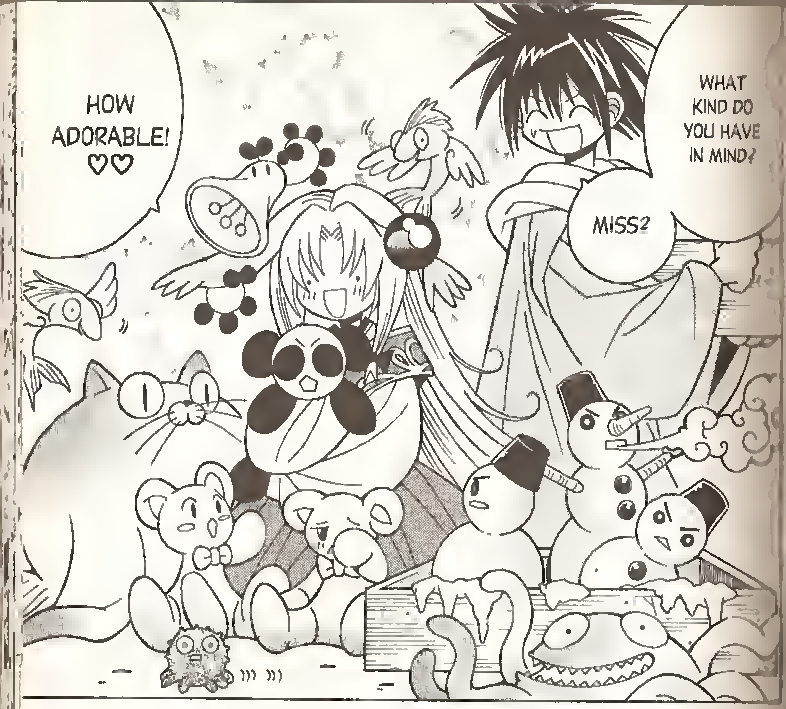
JUST YOU WATCH!
I'LL WORK HARD TO RUN THE SHOP AND SURPRISE YOU ALL!
FLAP
HUH?
?
SHADOWS...?

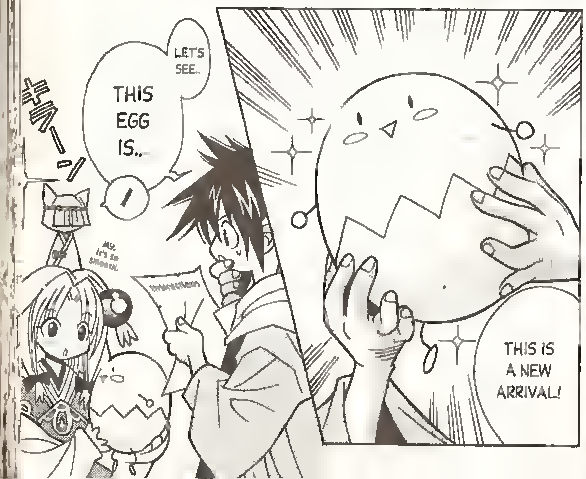
GASP!
OH!
Anyway-
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A DELIVERY GIRL...
THIS GIRL LOOKS LIKE A DOLL. SHE'S SO PRETTY!!
IT'S SOMEONE FROM ECHIGOYA!
WE HAVE A CUSTOMER!
HEAD CLERK-SAAAN!
SHUT UP! HOW MANY TIMES--
WELCOME!
Come in!
You're our first customer today!
HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS FROM ECHIGOYA?!

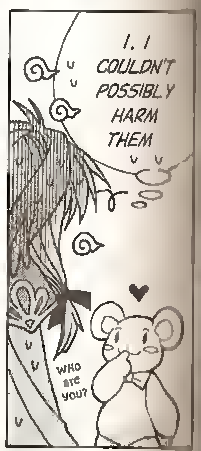
MILADY
WE'VE JUST ARRIVED
I SEE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN A FLYING VEHICLE IN YAMATO
ECHIGOYA'S AMAZING.
So this is HIYOKOYA.

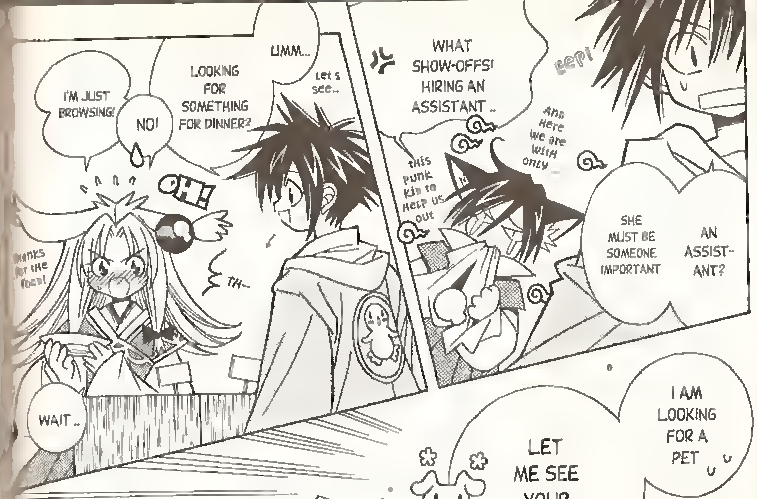
...GOING TO PULL THIS OFF?
HOW AM I.
THAT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE, THOUGH.
WHAT'S THE COMPETITION DOING HERE?
WHAT? AREN'T THEY HERE TO SHOP?
I SHALL FIRST TEST IT FOR POISON.
TRY A FREE SAMPLE!
HEY!
BUT IT'S COMMONER'S FOOD
You're tight!
I'm in heaven!
Mmm, delicious!

I...
...AS THE HEAD OF ECHIGOYA..
It's what they said...
ECHIGOYA?
...MUST THWART HIYOKOYA'S BUSINESS!
I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE USED THE COMPANY CARRIAGE!
I THOUGHT I WAS BEING DISCREET
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
MAYBE WE SHOULD'VE HIRED AN OXCART
YOUR SECRET IS OUT SHALL WE GO NOW?
MILADY.
I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

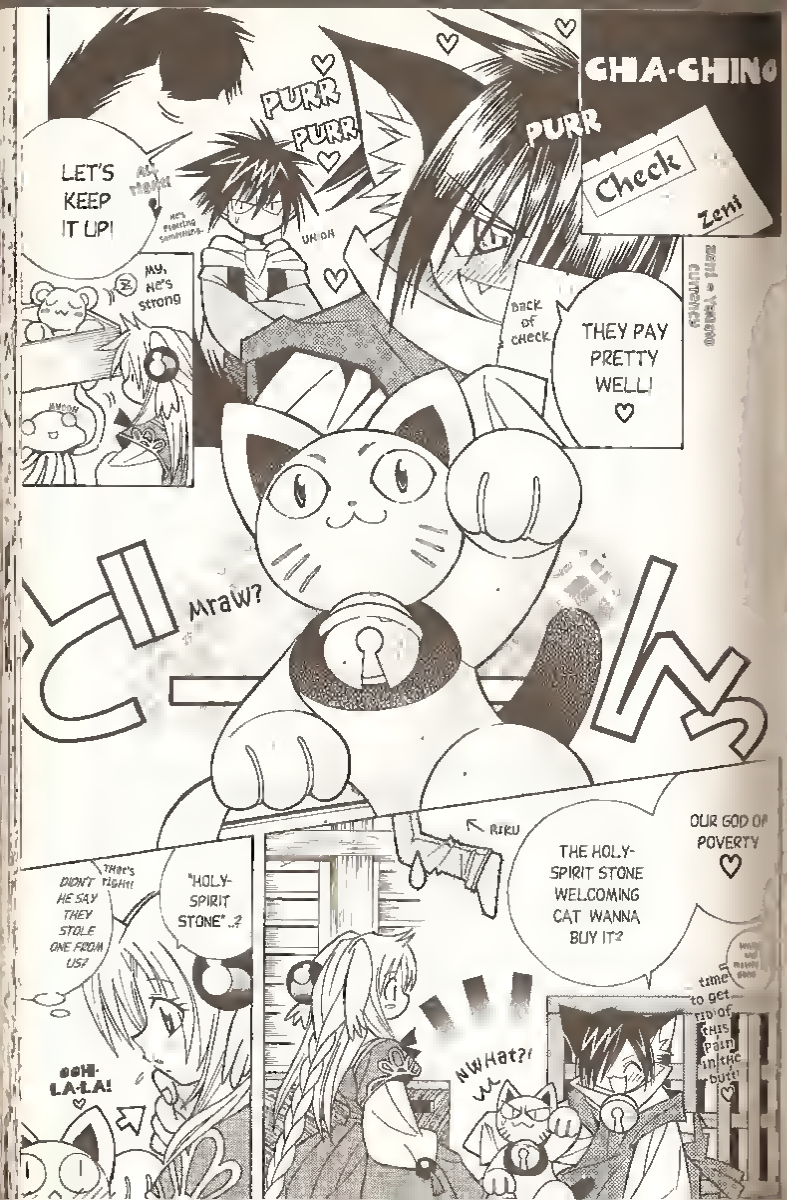

HOW ADORABLE! ♡♡
WHAT KIND DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
MISS?


LET'S SEE..
THIS EGG IS..
THIS IS A NEW ARRIVAL!

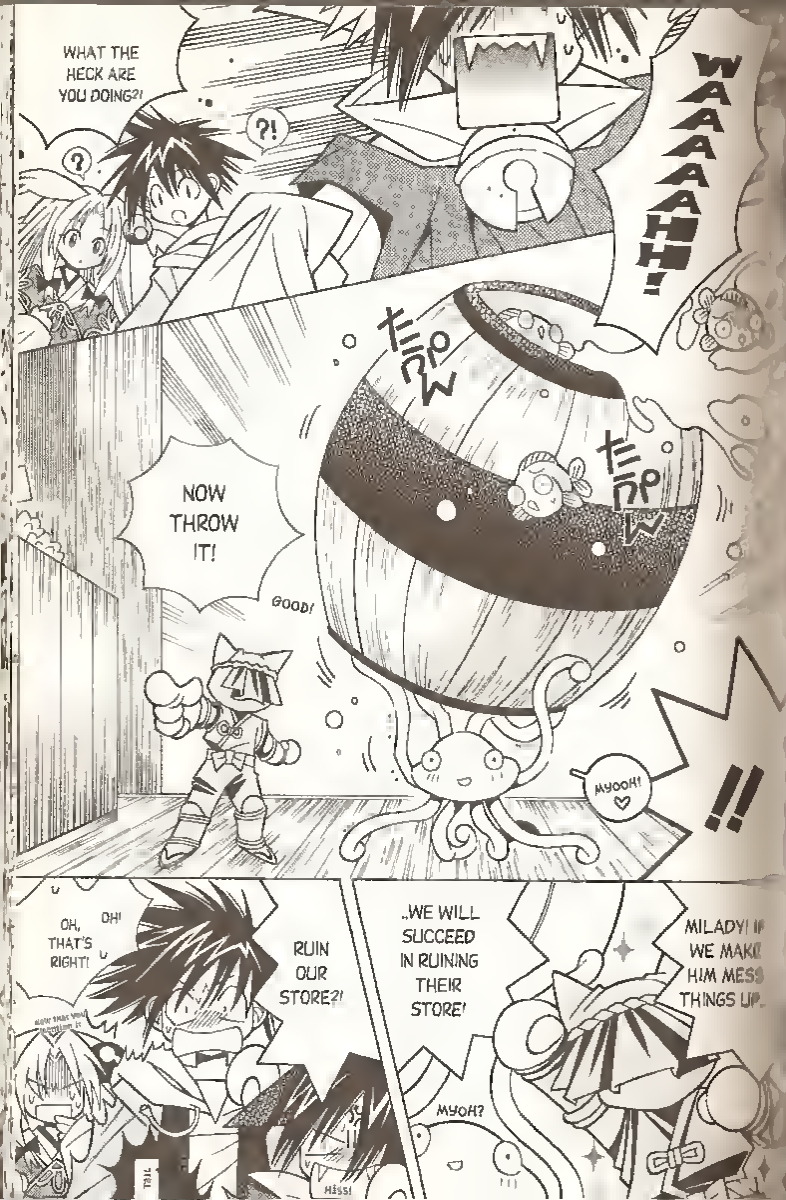

I, I COULDN'T POSSIBLY HARM THEM
WHO are you?


I'M JUST BROWSING!
NO!
LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FOR DINNER?
UMM... Let's see..
OH!
WHAT SHOW-OFFS! HIRING AN ASSISTANT..
EEP!
And here we are with only...
this punk kid to help us out
SHE MUST BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT
AN ASSISTANT?
Thanks for the treat
TH-
WAIT..

I AM LOOKING FOR A PET
LET ME SEE YOUR PETS!
ドキ
ドキ
PAYBACKS ARE HELL! I'LL DO THE SAME THING TO THEIR PETS!
EXCELLENT IDEA!
HIYOKOYA BEAT AND SQUASHED OUR PET BUGS...
THAT'S RIGHT!
GAH... WHERE ARE THE PETS?
Pat


CHA-CHING
PURR
PURR
PURR
Check
Zeni
LET'S KEEP IT UP!
All right!
Key floating summons.
UNION
My, he's strong
THEY PAY PRETTY WELL!
Back of check
Mraw?
RIKU
THE HOLY-SPIRIT STONE WELCOMING CAT WANNA BUY IT?
OUR GOD OF POVERTY
"HOLY-SPIRIT STONE"..?
That's right!!
DIDN'T HE SAY THEY STOLE ONE FROM US?
OOH-LA-LA!
NWHat?!
time to get rid of this pain in the butt!
Wish my mom was here
Sept. • Yuuko

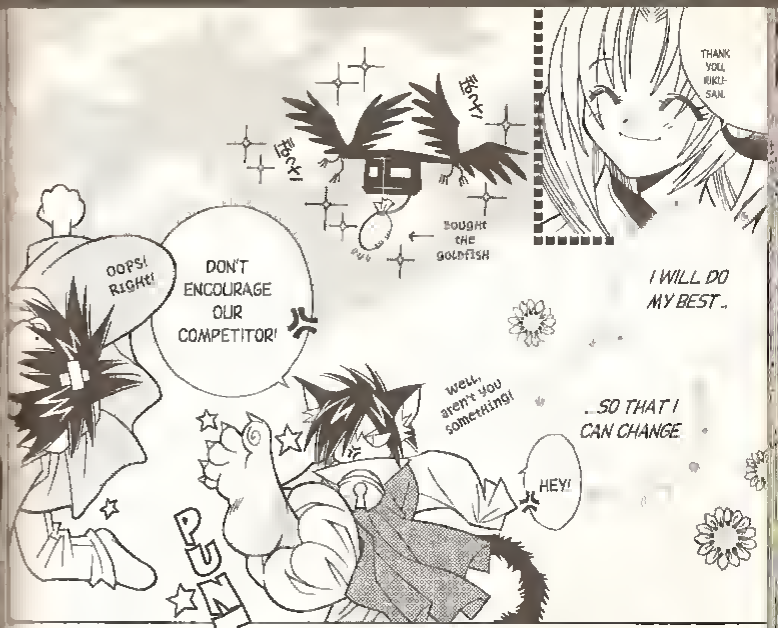
AH-HA! YOU LEFT AN OPENING, HYOKOYA!
LEAVE IT TO ME, MILADY!
KYAAAH!
HUHH?!
HOW DARE YOU?!
KUROTA!
WHAT DID I DO WRONG, MILADY?
WHERE?!
It's broken!
CRACK
CRACK
UWAAAHH!
"SECRET EGG WITH UNKNOWN PET INSIDE."
Now on sale
YOU BREAK IT, YOU BUY IT
MYOOH
WAH!
"THE FUN IS SEEING WHAT WILL COME OUT."
MYOOH...
HUH?

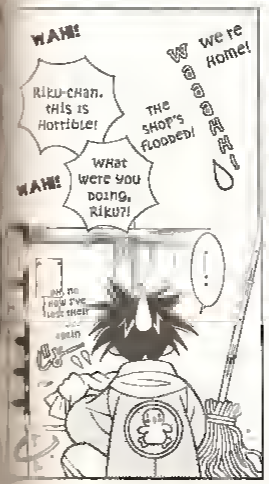

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING?!
?!
?
WAAAAAH!
NOW THROW IT!
GOOD!
MYOOH!
!!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
OH!
RUIN OUR STORE?!
HISS!
TAIL
..WE WILL SUCCEED IN RUINING THEIR STORE!
MYOH?
MILADY! IF WE MAKE HIM MESS THINGS UP..

EVEN WITH HER OWN PLANS
THE LADY IS SO THOUGHT LESS
GOOD GRIEF
WHO IS HE TALKING TO?
I WAS JOKING, RIKU! YOU WOULDN'T DO THIS!
WE REALLY WILL SELL YOU
MYOH
KM2
LOOK, YOU.
WHAT A BABE!
I WOULDN'T MIND HER BUYING ME!
YOU'RE NOT TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY
SO
. YOU CAN SPEAK WITH HOLY-SPIRIT STONES?
WELL
KIND OF
A little
BUT NO ONE REALLY BELIEVES ME
He can bring out the spirits from inside, too
ICHI-KOYA-SAN?
..THE CAT-SAN CHOSE HIYOKOYA?
IS THAT WHY..
You didn't steal him!
That's Hiyo.
I'm in awe...
AMAZING!
GOODNESS! TO THINK ANYONE COULD ACTUALLY DO SUCH A THING!

MILADY!
MISS...
...ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
C-CLERK-SAN...
I'M NOT HURT
I'm fine.
I'm fine.
THANK GOODNESS
I...
I'M SO SORRY.
I...
I'VE BEEN SO FOOLISH.
?!
IDIOT! IF YOU THROW IT THAT WAY...
!
LOOK OUT!
creak
KYAAAH!

Yeah!
Yeah!
NO ONE IN OUR STORE TRUSTS ME, EITHER!
Like today!
YOU GET BUMMED OUT WHEN YOU AREN'T APPRECIATED AND WHEN PEOPLE DON'T TRUST YOU!
I UNDER STAND
HUH?
HE..YI
LET'S KICK BUTT AND DO OUR BEST...
...SO THAT WE BOTH GET APPRECIATED! ☆
I'M KARIN
OH!
CALL ME KARI.
CLERK SAN...
IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS TO MARCH INTO OUR STORE ALL BY YOURSELF...
...I'M SURE YOU CAN MANAGE YOUR OWN STORE, TOO
umm...
JUST TRY TENDING THE SHOP OR SOMETHING.
Er, wait
BUT NO MORE TRYING TO RUIN EACH OTHER'S BUSINESS
I WILL
EVERYONE TO APPRECIATE ME A LITTLE BIT
I WANTED
...
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG GIRL, I LOST MY PARENTS AND BECAME THE HEAD OF ECHIGOYA
I'VE NEVER REALLY RUN THE SHOP--OTHER PEOPLE DID IT FOR ME. I WAS JUST A FIGUREHEAD
ECHIGOYA HAS GROWN, BUT I'VE NOT CONTRIBUTED AT ALL.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO INTERFERE WITH HIYOKOYA? YOUR RIVAL?
damn
I DID FEEL LIKE..
...IT WAS A MISTAKE TO DO THIS
I JUST..



★ End of Chapter 9 ★

Chapter 10

# The Birthday Seal

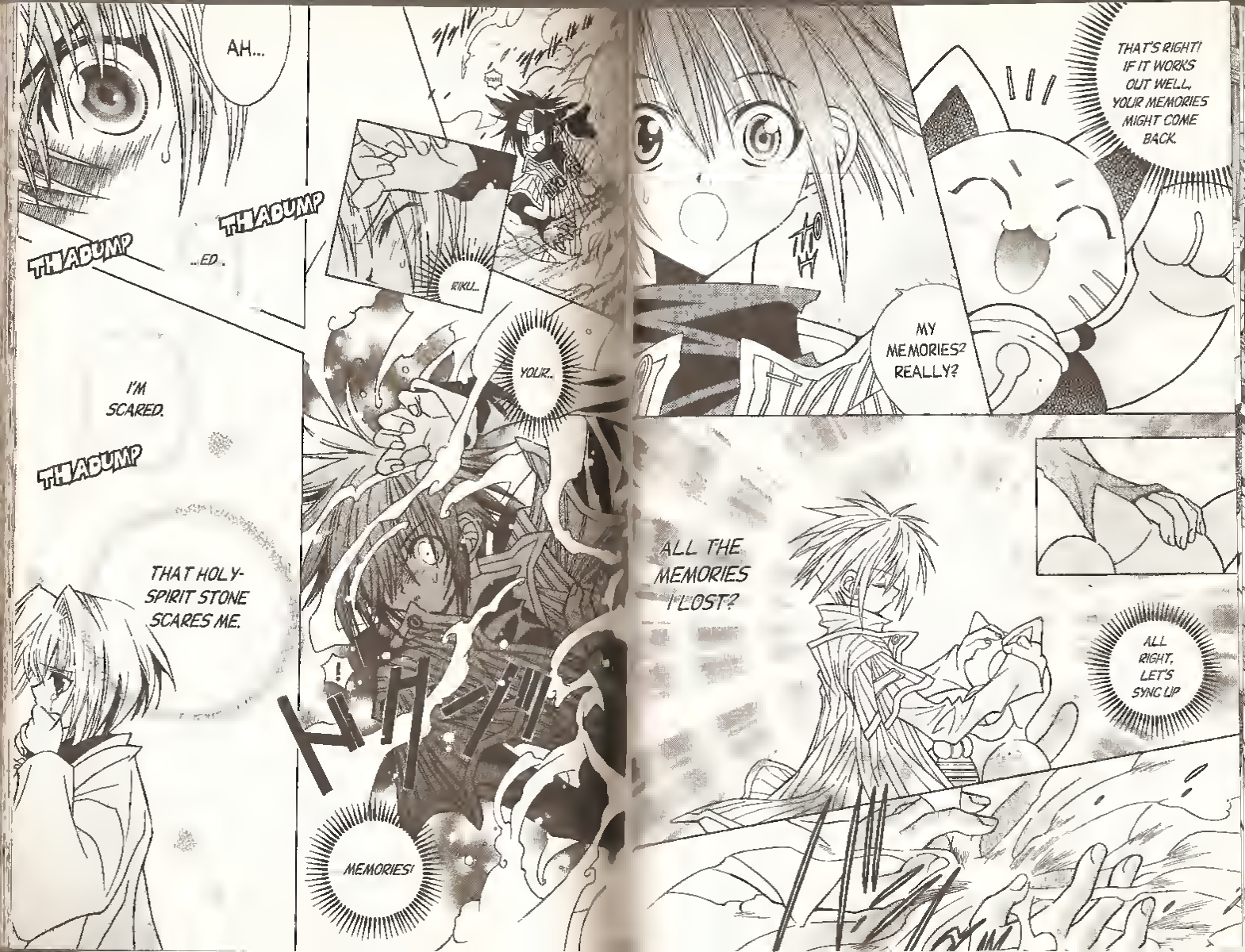
IT'S A MINI-SALAMANDER WE CAUGHT!
THIS
AH-HA! DINNER-TIME!
Using Futaba as bait.
WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH THAT?
I PUT TOGETHER A GENROKU SHOPPING LIST
IT HAS EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ALL THE FAMOUS SHOPS AND THEIR POSTER GIRLS
Teahouse Sakura
Latest
Genroku Shopping Guide
Mitsuya-ke
No.1
WE SELL THIS AT OUR SHOP
You-chestnut
It's full of
RED BEAN JAM
WHAT'S INSIDE?
WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
...A PRESENT FROM YOUR BIG BROTHER TO YOU!
Inventive Assistant
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE TOO SOON TO GIVE RIKU SUCH THINGS?
Welcome!
Welcome!
Welcome!
THIS TIME, AS A SPECIAL TREAT...
Meet the Girls Limit: 1
Meet the Girls Limit: 1
Meet the Girls Limit: 1
I'LL INCLUDE TICKETS SO YOU CAN MEET THE POSTER GIRLS!
Over-protective
BLUE
WHaaat?!
HIYOKO
FUTABA AND I HAVE A SUPER-AWESOME PRESENT!
Okay!
LET'S BLOW OUT THE CANDLES FIRST!
LOOK
MATCHES
UGH!
YEAH, OKAY.
Why am I cooking for my own present?
HUH? I was sure it was in here...
RIKU, COULD YOU USE YOUR POWER TO FIND THE DRAGON?
It ran off somewhere!

THIS IS YOUR ROOM, RIKU
?
ALTHOUGH I DID GET YOU A NEW FUTON AND SOME NEW CLOTHES
EVERYTHING IS JUST HOW YOU LEFT IT
KO
MINE!
The salamander!
IGNITION!
FZZT
Uh-oh!
time to eat!
HIYOKO
DINNER!
EEEEEEEEEK!
I have to eat it before it burns up!
It's all turned to ash!
I HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE YOU TOO LET'S GO UPSTAIRS
It's usually like this here
RIKU
ICHIYA SAN?
HOW DOES A BIRTHDAY GET TO BE SO CRAZY?
get rid of it!
SHEESH
HIYOKOYA
Fire prevention
Following fire extinguishing procedures

WHAT'S THIS? IS THAT A PICTURE OF A CAT?
WHOA!
SIX PAWS?
PING!
Ermm
IT'S JUST KIND OF
WHY DO YOU ASK?
IT USED TO BE YOUR CAT, RIKU.
THIS WAS OKAKA I think.
You loved them very much.
WOW
YOU HAD THREE OF THEM.
OKAKA, NIBOSHI, AND KANIKAMA.
Wait right here.
OH!
I'LL BRING SOME PICTURES OF YOU WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.
GLOW
OKOYA
.....

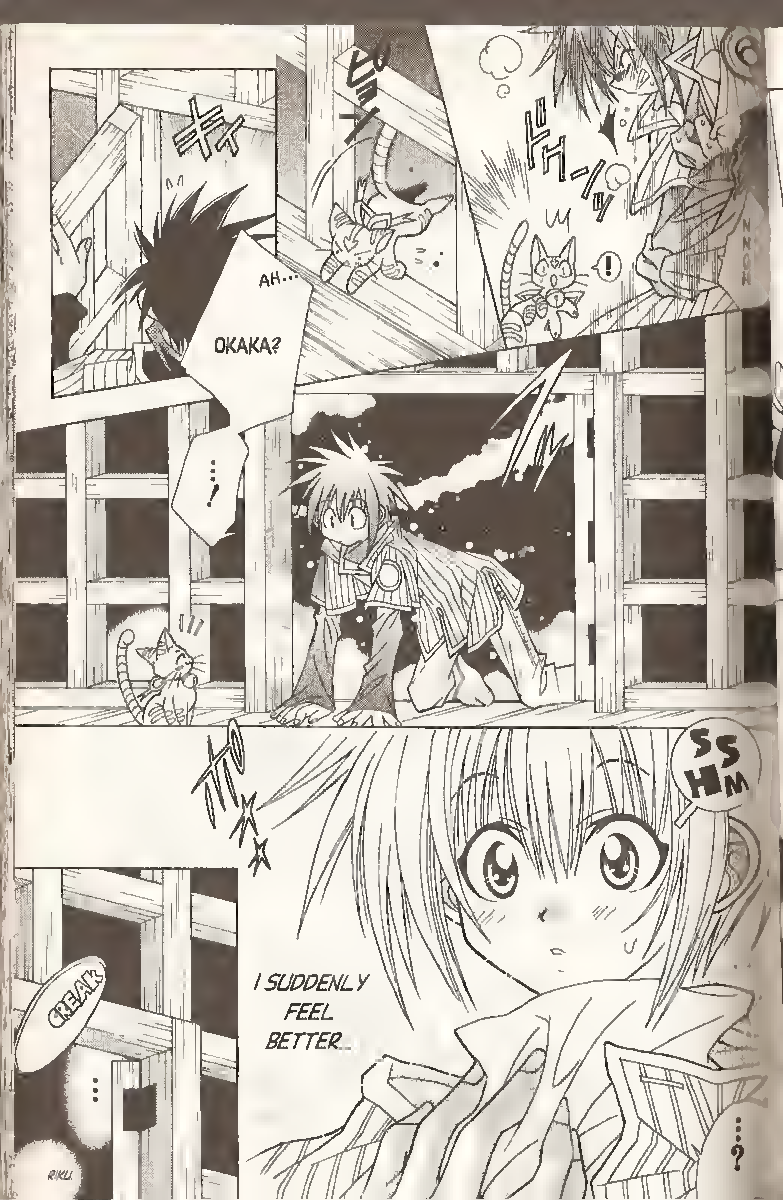
MY ROOM.
...?
OH! ☆
RIKU?
THIS WAS MY ROOM?!
REALLY?!
WOOH! He likes it!
THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S ALL YOURS DO WITH IT WHAT YOU WILL.
THIS ROOM WAS REALLY MINE?
Hey
ICHIYA-SAN

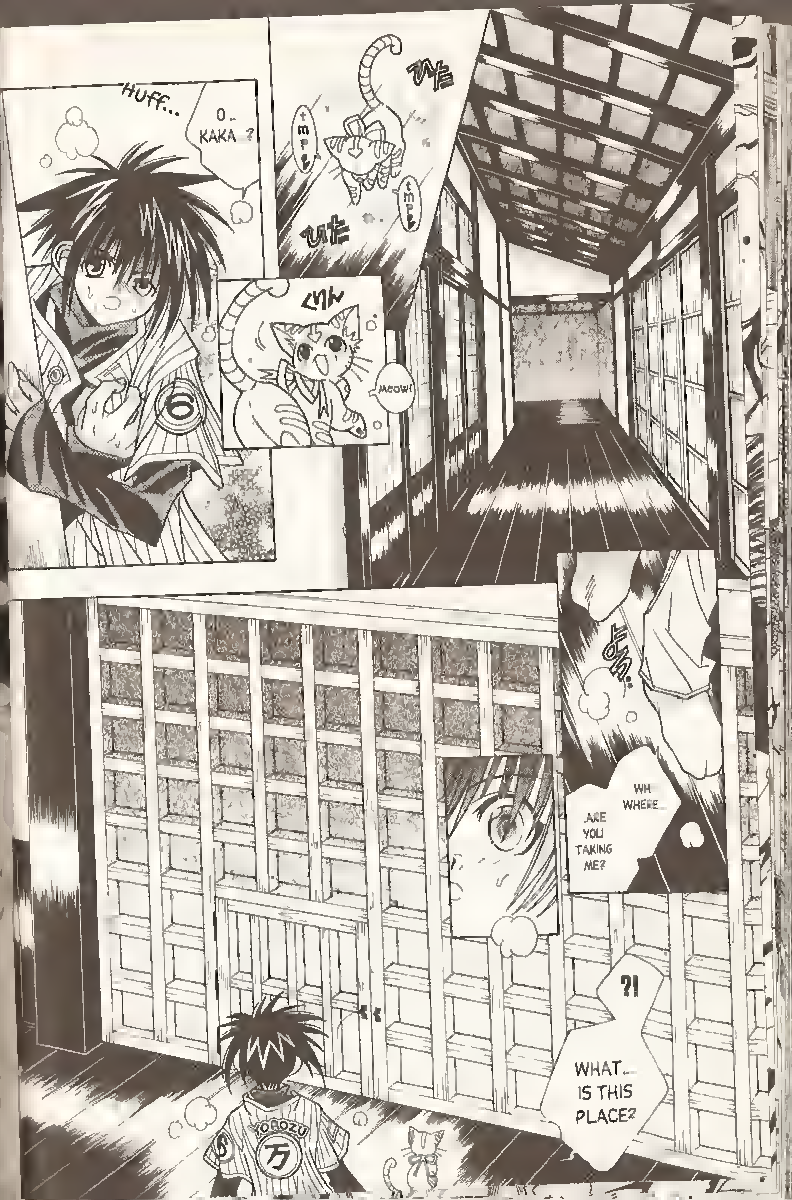
It's burnt to a crisp!
HOW ABOUT SOME BIRTHDAY BUN?
WELL... OKAY ☆
I'LL LOOK IN HONOR OF YOUR BIRTHDAY
HOW CAN YOU ASK ME FOR FAVORS WHEN YOU DIDN'T EVEN INVITE ME TO YOUR PARTY?
I CAN'T SEE INTO THE FAR PAST VERY WELL, YOU KNOW
Bwoo Bwoo Bwoo
YOU SEE EVERYTHING INSIDE HIYOKOYA, RIGHT, SAIKA? IT'S YOUR TERRITORY
Hey, something wrong?
I SHOWED YOU SOME OF MY MEMORIES BEFORE, REMEMBER?
THIS TIME, WE'LL DO THE OPPOSITE OF THAT
THADUMP
HIYO KOYA
You mean
WE'LL SEE MY MEMORIES?
...
Venerable Welcoming Cat
IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT SOMEHOW, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S 'CAUSE OF YOUR AMNESIA.
Hmm
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT ..
YOUR REAL ROOM MIGHT BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
...
YEAH
I kinda get that feeling too.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO ME, ISN'T IT?
IS THIS YOUR ROOM, RIKU?
Mmm
WELL, I CAN'T
..SAY FOR SURE ☆

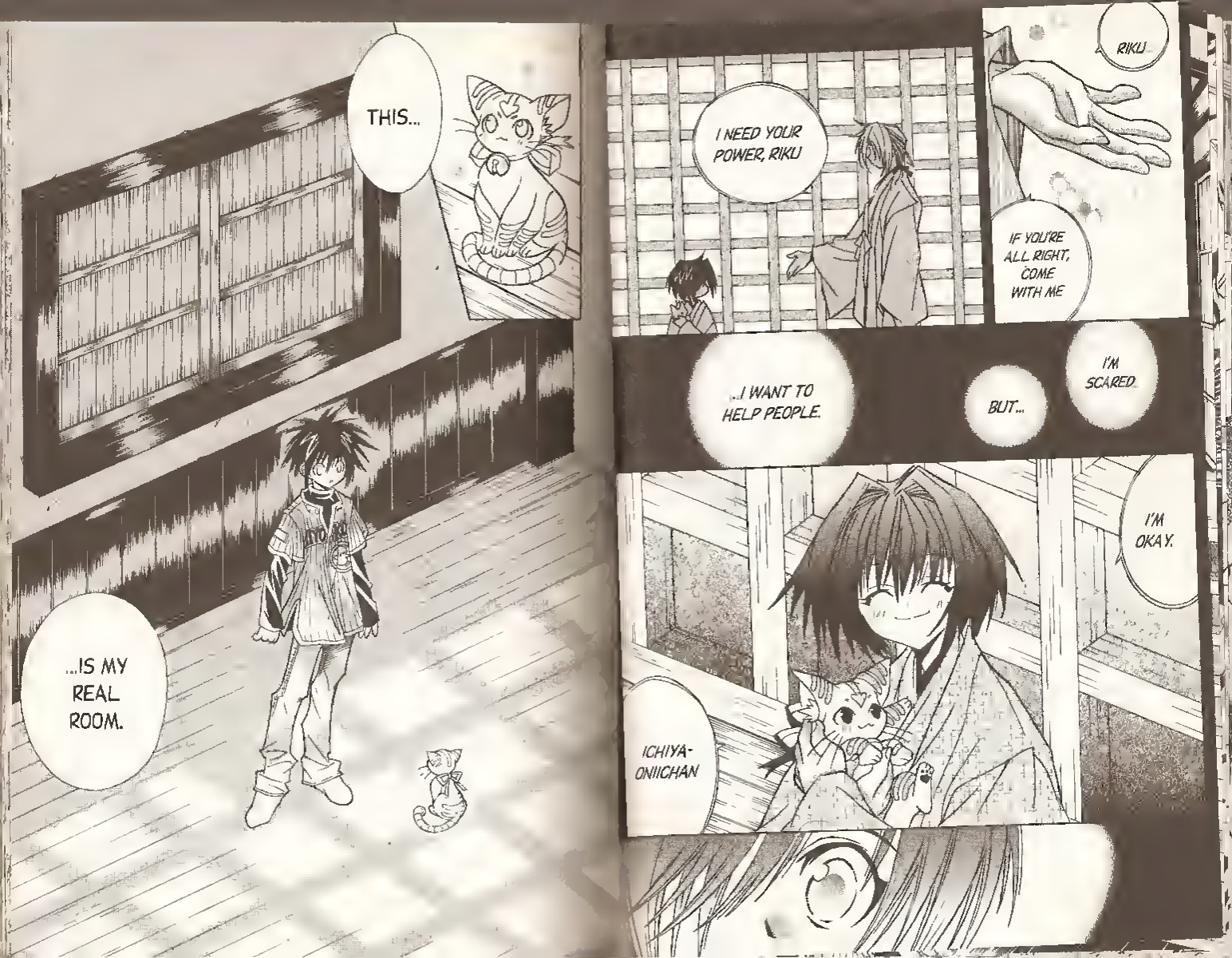

AH...
THADUMP
THADUMP
..ED.
I'M SCARED.
THADUMP
THAT HOLY-SPIRIT STONE SCARES ME.
RIKU..
YOUR..
!
MEMORIES!
THAT'S RIGHT! IF IT WORKS OUT WELL, YOUR MEMORIES MIGHT COME BACK.
MY MEMORIES? REALLY?
ALL THE MEMORIES I LOST?
ALL RIGHT, LET'S SYNC UP

WAS THAT ME?
RIKU?
GUH...
UGH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING RIKU!!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHA... WAS THAT... WAS THAT...?
!!
RIKU
I-I-I-IT'S A GHOST CAT!
?!
MEOW!
OKAKA?
...FROM THE PICTURE...
YOU'RE THE ONE...

...WILL EAT ME UP.
...SOME-DAY...
...THAT STONE...
I FEEL LIKE...
I'M SCARED!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
OW, OW, OW, OW!
DON'T


AH...
OKAKA?
...!
NNGH
SS HM
I SUDDENLY FEEL BETTER...
...?
CREAK
...
RIKU

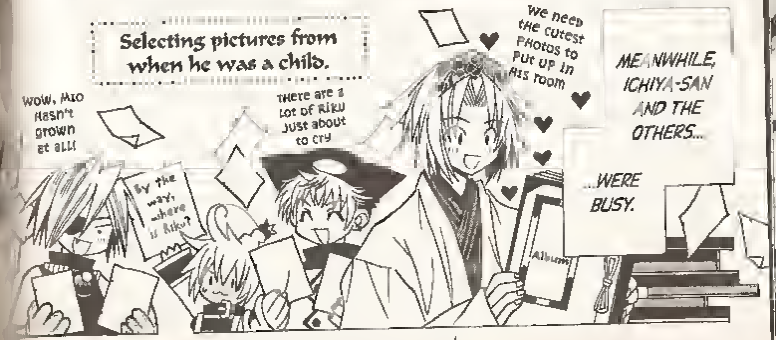

HUFF...
O.. KAKA..?
MEOW!
WH WHERE... ARE YOU TAKING ME?
?!
WHAT... IS THIS PLACE?
YOROZU


THIS...
...IS MY REAL ROOM.
I NEED YOUR POWER, RIKU
RIKU...
IF YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, COME WITH ME
I'M SCARED.
BUT...
..I WANT TO HELP PEOPLE.
I'M OKAY.
ICHIYA-ONIICHAN

I NEED YOUR POWER, RIKU
AFTER SYNCING U WITH SAIKA
...I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF MY LOST MEMORIES.
...TELL ME ANYTHING?
WHY WON'T ANYONE.
HAD I EVER LINKED WITH A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE BEFORE?

WHY?
IT'S YOUR ROOM, RIKU.
WHY WON'T ICHIYA-SAN? WHY WON'T ANYONE...
THIS IS MORE LIKE A PADDED ROOM...
FOR CRAZY PEOPLE!
...TELL ME ANYTHING?

†Feeling at Home.


Selecting pictures from when he was a child.
We need the cutest photos to put up in his room
MEANWHILE, ICHIYA-SAN AND THE OTHERS...
...WERE BUSY.
Wow, Mio hasn't grown at all!
There are a lot of Riku just about to cry
By the way, where is Riku?
Album

★End of Chapter 10★

.....
SURE.
HIYOKO STORE BEFORE OPENING
RIKU-CHAAAN! TAKE OUT THE TRASH, OKAY?
HAS RIKU SEEMED A LITTLE DOWN SINCE HIS BIRTHDAY?
?
DUSTPAN
Maybe he didn't get what he wanted.
tweet
PHEW
tweet

Chapter 11
The Third Man
3

OW!
STAY AWAY!
"OW?"
POOF
GULP
THAT HURT!

..LIKE AN INVISIBLE WALL HAS COME BETWEEN ME AND THEM
IT'S KIND OF
KAW
KAW
I CAN'T ASK THEM ABOUT IT AFTER ALL.
KAAAAW!
AAAW! ☆
HUMPH!
I HATE THIS!
THAT ONE WITH THE RED CREST IS ACTING ALL TOUGH. I WONDER IF HE'S THE LEADER
munch
munch
GULP
KAW!
KAW!
Trash
EWW
CROWS IN THE DUMPSTER!
Fresh meal (trash)

WAIT! THE STORE HASN'T OPENED YET!
EH?
MONEY
MONEY.
CRAP IT TRAIN DISTRACT HI!
WHEEZE
WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?!
UM...!
IT CRIES WON'T OPEN
clink
tink
HE'S CHANGED THE LOCK ON THE SAFE! THAT DAMN CAT
TH--
MIGHT BE TOO HEAVY TO CARRY...
THAT CROW...
...JUST TURNED INTO A HUMAN!
THAT COAT
WHY, YOU LITTLE...
HOW DARE YOU STRIKE MY FACE?
HUH?
"HIYOKOYA?"
I can't breathe!

YA PUNK! YOU'RE ALWAYS OUT CAUSING TROUBLE, AND YOU ONLY COME HOME TO STEAL MONEY!
DAMMIT MIKASA!
You're so screwed
What's it been, three months?
Three-and-a-half
THAT CROW IS MY BROTHER MIKASA?!
...DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS.
..TO THINK YOU'RE RIKU
HMM
HE'S KIND OF..
IF YOU NEED MONEY YOU CAN EARN IT BY WORKING HERE!
MIKASA
WHO WOULD WORK FOR YOU? ☆
COME TO THINK OF IT THERE IS SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT RED CREST
WHO'S... THIS?
It is wrong-
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TAKING MONEY FROM YOUR OWN FAMILY?!
QUIET SHOP BOY!
FAMILY ?!
THIEF ..!!
MMF!
MORE LIKE A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING BUM!
OH, HE'S A PROBLEM CHILD
HE'S ALWAYS IN THE PICTURES FROM WHEN I WAS A KID
Photo
MIKASA!
WHAT ARE YOU YELLING ABOUT?
RIKU?
OH!
FLAP
SO YOU'RE..
..."THE GOOD FOR-NOTHING PROBLEM CHILD"?!

MIKASA
WE'LL BE OPENING SOON
WILL YOU BE STAYING AROUND TO HELP?
BRAT
Not a chance!
YEAH YEAH, OBVIOUSLY YOU WANT ME TO GET LOST ☆
LATER
OH HO..
WELL, WELL..
ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT? ☆
RIGHT, ICHIYA?
?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HUH?
EH?
FOOD!
EH?
WH-WHAT DYA MEAN?

WHAT A JERK!
がん
I THOUGHT YOU DIED IN JAPAN IN A GUTTER NO LESS
SO...?
YOU STILL TAKING CHANCES..
..WITH HOLY-SPIRIT STONES, RIKU?
THE POOR KID'S GOT AMNESIA, SO DON'T SAY ANYTHING THAT WILL CONFUSE HIM
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN EVERY THING?!
AMNESIA?
SATSUKI?
WHAT'S CONFUSING?
MIKA-SA!
HUH?
HE KNOWS.. ABOUT MY POWER?

RIKU?
I wonder how much I can get for this.
MIKASA KNOWS ABOUT THAT ROOM.
WAIT!
TELL ME!
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU, MIKASA?
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME FIVE YEARS AGO
MAYBE IF I ASKED MIKASA...
Aaargh!
IF YOU'RE NOT CAREFUL...
...YOU'LL BE THROWN INTO THE ZASHIKI-ROU AND USED AS A TOOL OF THE TRADE AGAIN! ♡
ZASHIKI ROU: a room for confining criminals or lunatics
WHERE'S RIKU?
HUH?
THAT MIKASA...
WE'RE MISSING A BOTTLE OF OUR SQUID-INK PERFUME!!
AAARGH!

YO! ♡
I CAME TO SEE YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACES
?
You came by just to see us?
I got no money!
I WASN'T THINKING WHEN I DECIDED TO FOLLOW HIM.
NOW WHAT PART OF GENROKU IS THIS?
THERE SURE ARE A LOT OF WOMEN...
OH, HOW CUTE!
WHAT?!
WANNA HAVE SOME FUN BEFORE YOU GO? ♡

OH?
YOU WANT TO KNOW, DO YOU?
IN THAT CASE,
..TAKE OFF THAT COAT AND COME WITH ME.
MIKASA! ♡ LONG TIME NO SEE!
MEOW
OOOH, LOOK! IT'S MIKASA-CHAN! ♡

I'LL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY WITH THIS BABE!
AND THEN I'LL COME BACK AND HAVE SOME FUN TONIGHT, OKAY?
REALLY?
BUT I WANT IT! ☆
I'M SELLING THIS, SO HANDS OFF!
Genroku Racetrack
NOW, THEN...
SURE! ☆
NOW THAT I HAVE A HANDY LITTLE KID WITH ME ♡
I'm not staying here another second!
Kamata's Tales
Long-awaited
Friendship
WE'RE IN THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT, KID.
YIPE!
MIKA-SAAAA!
WH-U WHY
Who's that?
Mika's screaming!
..ARE THESE WOMEN SO--?!
Come on in!
YOU KNOW THAT MUCH, AT LEAST.
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME HERE?
RED...
of course
FIRST TIMER
TH--
HE REALLY IS A GOOD-FOR-NOTHING!
THIS GUY!
Don't you have a present for me, Mikasa-chan?
Mayu boy owns my property
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE TAKES MONEY FROM HIYOKOYA TO SPEND IN PLACES LIKE THIS!
SQUID-INK PERFUME! ♡
YAY!

YOU'RE KIDDING!
USE MY POWER FOR THAT?!
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
DID YOU THINK I'D TELL YOU ABOUT THE PAST FOR FREE?
WHAT A JERK!
HE HAD THIS ALL PLANNED OUT
!
YOU SUCK!
YOU--!
Sold the perfume to pay for a ticket
WITH YOUR POWER..
...WE'LL MAKE A LOT OF MONEY! ♡
BUH..
FIRST THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT
..AND NOW HORSE-RACING? ☆
Betting Tickets
Ha Ha Ha
WE'LL GET ALL THE MONEY WE NEED BY BETTING! ♪
I MEAN
..ARE THESE RACE HORSES?
Paddock
RACE HORSES
WHY DO YOU THINK.
I BROUGHT YOU WITH ME?
PICKLE
SHOO!
SHOO!
thump
WHAT?!
HUH
YOU CAN TELL WHICH HORSE (♂) WILL WIN?
WELL
I'LL GET A LITTLE HELP--
..FROM YOU.

HUH?
Losing ticket
Um... Excuse me
ANYWAY!
This may need surgery!
YOWCH! ☆ THAT REALLY HOIT, KID!
Right, bro?
Growl
JUST TELL ME-
ooh! ☆
LOOKS LIKE YA WON SOME CASH THERE, DUDE. YOU HIS FRIEND?
Oh!!
SOMEONE'S GOTTA PAY THE DOCTOR'S BILL. ♡
pat
AW, MAN
TRYING TO MILK THE WINNERS HUH?
!
POOF
MIKA-
WHAT A PAIN IN THE BUTT. ☆
YOU STARTED THIS MESS, RIKU--YOU FIX IT!!

I COULD CARE LESS WHAT HAPPENS!
Every boy is all my future's friends!
I'VE NEVER EVEN PREDICTED A HORSE RACE BEFORE!
Is it like guessing the questions to a test?
DAM-IT!?
Racehorse List
I ACTUALLY GUESSED RIGHT!
I MADE A KILLING!
WE'RE IN TH' MONEY, BABY!
Money
WOOT! I MADE 68 TIMES MORE MONEY THAN I HAD! ♡
NO WAY!
WANNA GO BACK TO THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT?
HEY, RIKU.

MIKASA!
.....
FINE!
POOF
RIKU! COME ON!
HE GOT AWAY!
damnit!
OOPS
SORRY, FELLAS
NOW I REALLY HURT YOU
SOLE

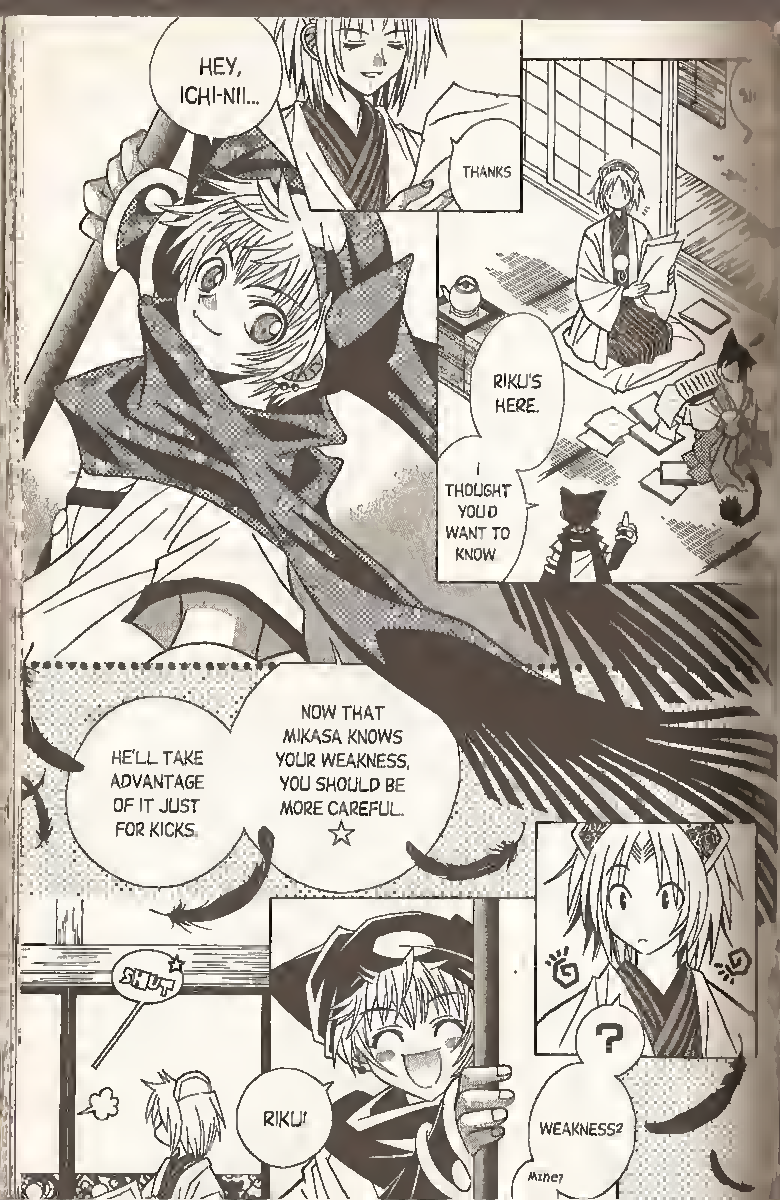
MAKE SURE YOU BRUSH YOUR TEETH AND GO TO BED
MIKASA!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PROMISE?!
Ugh, kids are so freakin persistent
WAIT!
ALL RIGHT ALL RIGHT
YOU CAN GO ON HOME NOW I'M HEADING BACK TO THE LADIES
YOU'RE SUCH A MORON
MIKASA
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO RUN OFF WITHOUT ME.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED FIVE YEARS AGO
Ew, the red-light district again?
COME BACK TO THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT IN A WEEK
GOT IT
SO YOU ACTUALLY CAN BE A GOOD GUY. I'M SHOCKED
I'LL DROP YOU TO YOUR DEATH PUNK
A thank you would be nice...
★ End of Chapter 11 ★

DING
DONG
I WENT BACK HOME TO JAPAN, WITHOUT SPEAKING A WORD OF IT TO THE OTHERS
...AFTER BEING TORMENTED BY MIKASA, I HAD TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON GETTING THE INFO I NEEDED
AND SO..
I'M POOPED.
カシャ
?
ブブブブ
カリカリ
BECAUSE NO ONE WILL TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED..
I CAN ONLY TURN TO MIKASA

Chapter 12
His True Power

OOPS!
Riku is really maaad!
UM...
SORRY
I'M JUST A LITTLE GRUMPY
WOULD YOU JUST SHUT UP?!
YES, EVEN I FORGET THINGS!
WHAT WRONG THIS IS LIKE YOU
ガヒーん
RI--
THERE HE WAS, TALKING ABOUT FAMILY, BUT..
LEMME SEE YOUR SCIENCE REPORT!
REPORT PAD
HEY! RIKU!
REPORT?
ALWAYS DEPENDING ON RIKU..
UGH!
HEY! YOU GUYS!
LET US COPY YOURS! ♡
THEY'RE DUE TODAY
RIKU FORGOT?!
HOW COULD..
..RIKU FORGET HIS HOMEWORK?!
IS IT A COLD DAY IN HELL OR SOMETHING?
THAT'S TERRIBLE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! ;;;;
NOOO!
UH-OH..
I FORGOT IT..
WHAT?!

...BECAUSE YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER TO THEM.
YOU'RE RIGHT
AND THE REASON I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT MY PAST..
...IS PROBABLY BECAUSE I WANT TO GET CLOSER TO EVERYONE AT HIYOKOYA
AREN'T YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?
IT STOPS AT 'GOOD FRIEND'?!
Now it's time to do that report!
MIZUNO...
...YOU'RE A GOOD FRIEND
THANK...
RIKU, YOU'RE NOT KNOWN FOR SHOWING MUCH EMOTION AROUND HERE, YOU KNOW?
You're always a bit withdrawn
E WERE UST A ITTLE PRISED, S ALL..
EH?
I MEAN
...DON'T YOU WANT YOUR FRIENDS TO BE HONEST WITH THEIR FEELINGS?
I took my anger out on everyone
EVERYONE GETS THAT WAY ONCE IN A WHILE.
WELL, ACTUALLY, I WAS KIND OF GLAD ☆
YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO HIDE THINGS FROM YOU.
WHEN THEY DO...
...YOU BECOME CLOSER FRIENDS, YOU KNOW?


HEY, ICHI-NII...
THANKS
RIKU'S HERE.
I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW
NOW THAT MIKASA KNOWS YOUR WEAKNESS, YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL.
HE'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT JUST FOR KICKS.
SHUT
RIKU!
WEAKNESS?
Mine?

Hiyokoya Store
NOK NOK
HMPH!
ALL RIGHT!
IF THEY WON'T COME TO ME, I'LL GO TO THEM!
Heeey!
ICHI-NII...?

IS ICHIYA-SAN HERE?!
HUH? RIKU...
HE IS, BUT— um, well...
ICHIYA-SAN!
COME WITH ME!

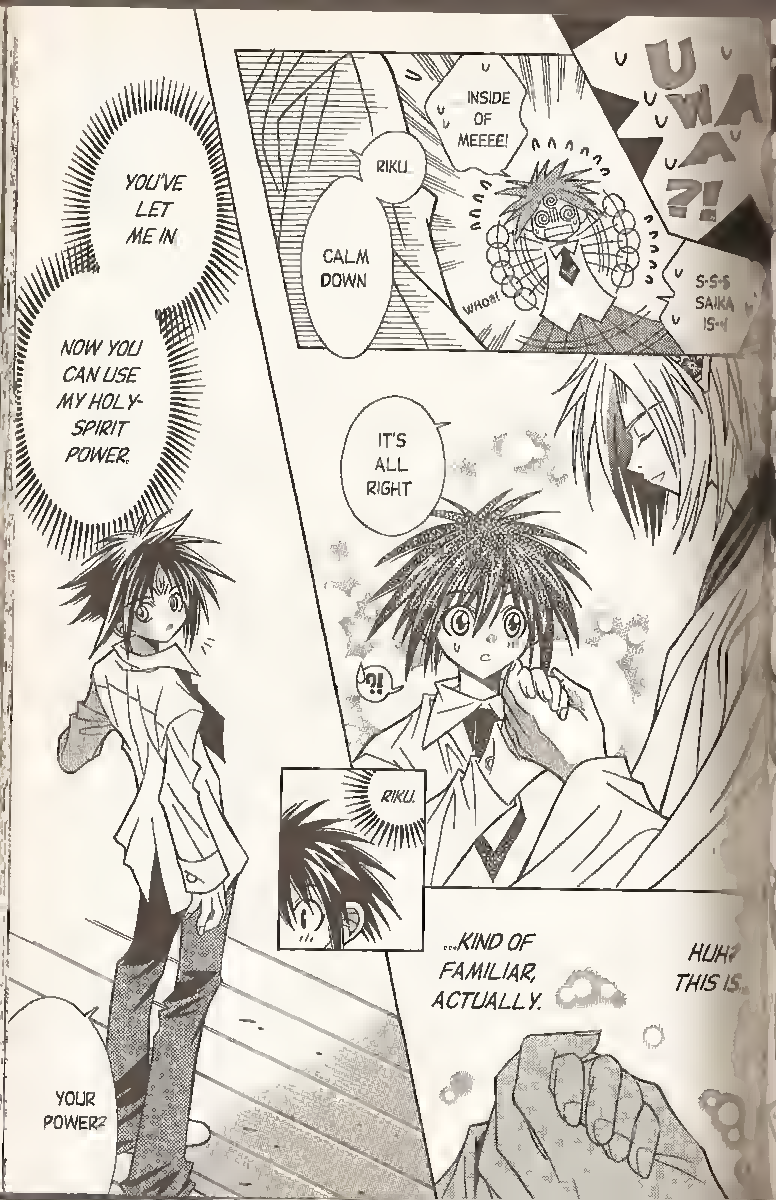
THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S RIGHT.
HE DOESN'T HOLD BACK
I DON'T THINK I'M BEING CAREFREE OR ANYTHING
BUT I MAY BE MAKING RIKU UNEASY.
IT MAY BE
ABOUT TIME TO TELL RIKU EVERYTHING.

SAIKA!
RIKU...?
NGAAAH?
RIKU?
WHAT ON EARTH IS THE MATTER?
WHY DO YOU SEEM HAPPY?
YOU AREN'T NORMAL EX.
GLOW
snort
Napping
WATCH THIS
erable Welcoming Ce

Sorry for taking you out so suddenly
yes.. yes.
WHY AM I COLD? WHAT I'M OUTSIDE
sweater
I USED TO LINK WITH HOLY-SPIRIT STONES.
ON MY BIRTHDAY...I REMEMBERED A LITTLE BIT.
RIKU... I...
AWCHOO!
Back to sleep
SCRITCH
ICHIYO SAN..
IT'S JUST AS YOU REMEMBERED, RIKU.
toot
BACK THEN, YOU WERE ABLE TO CALL HOLY SPIRITS FROM THEIR STONES
BUT...
...YOUR TRUE POWER, RIKU, IS MUCH MORE.

NO MORE QUESTIONS, THEN! LET'S DO IT, RIKU!
THIS IS A TRUE LINK!
YOU MERGE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!
Me
se?

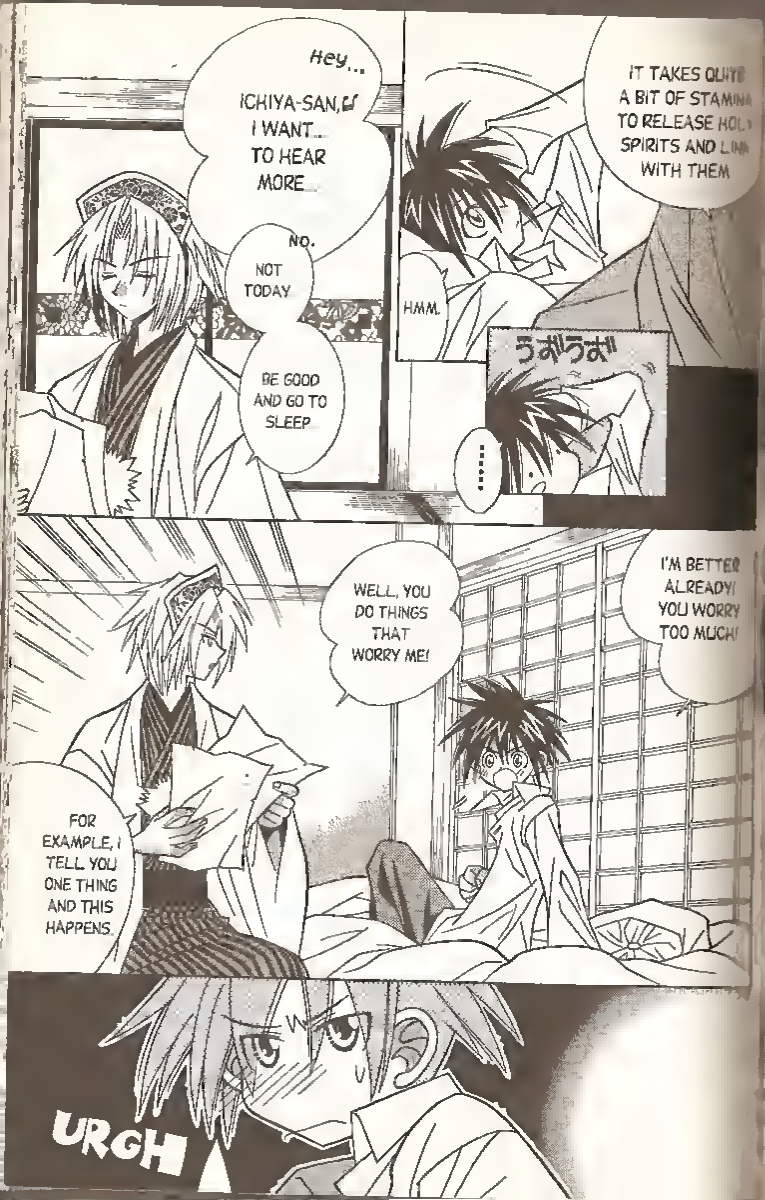
SAIKA.
HE'S RIGHT, RIKU.
AHEM
YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF NOTHING AND SO EARLY IN THE MORNING!
AAAAAH!
MY TRUE POWER?
JUST BRINGING OUT HOLY SPIRITS ISN'T ALL THERE IS TO IT.
ALL RIGHT!
LET'S TRY IT OUT!
YEAH, LET'S DO IT!
YOINK
LET ME EXPLAIN IT VERBALLY
OR
IT'S FINE!
I USED TO DO IT BEFORE, TOO, DIDN'T I?!
YOU DID.


YOU'VE LET ME IN
NOW YOU CAN USE MY HOLY-SPIRIT POWER.
YOUR POWER?
RIKU.
?!
IT'S ALL RIGHT
...KIND OF FAMILIAR, ACTUALLY.
HUH? THIS IS...
RIKU
CALM DOWN
INSIDE OF MEEEE!
WHOA!
UWAA?!
S-S-S SAIKA IS--!

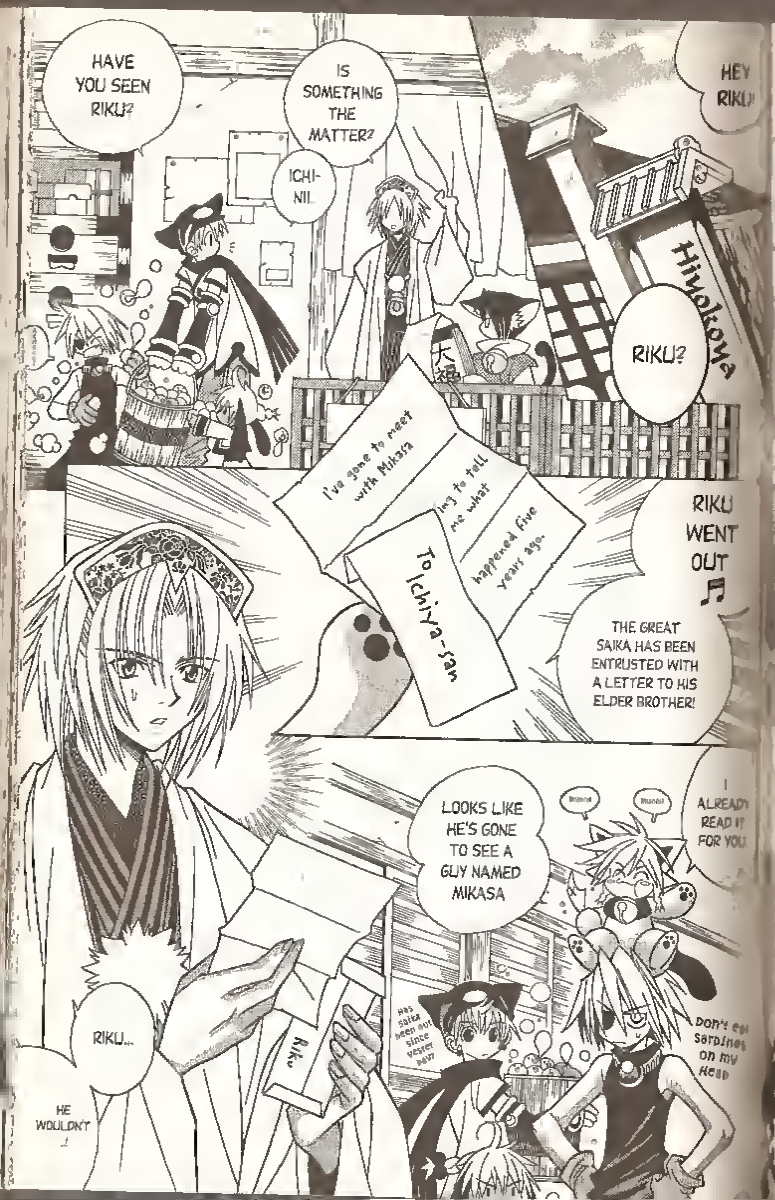
RA☆AH!
SWIP♡
CLEAN
I'M COMING IN!
COMING IN?!
JUST A--!
OWWW...
WHAT DO YA THINK? ♡
PEEK♡
EEEP!
TIME OUT--!
THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO MERGE!

ZOOM
Ear
club club
THIS IS SAIKA'S POWER...!
WOW! I CAN SEE INSIDE HIYOKOYA!!
?!
OH?
WHAT'S WRONG, RIKU-CHAN? YOU'RE SO WORKED UP
FUTABA'S FALLEN IN THE WATER BARREL!
Eeeeeeeeeeek!
HURR HURR

THE POWER TO SEE EVERYTHING IN MY TERRITORY ♡
UWAH?!
Hiyokoya Store

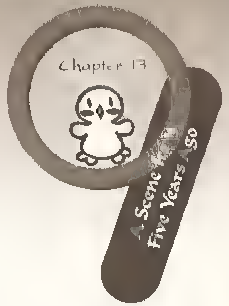

Hey...
ICHIYA-SAN, I WANT... TO HEAR MORE...
NO. NOT TODAY
BE GOOD AND GO TO SLEEP
IT TAKES QUITE A BIT OF STAMINA TO RELEASE HOLY SPIRITS AND LINK WITH THEM
HMM.
うぅうぅ
.....
WELL, YOU DO THINGS THAT WORRY ME!
I'M BETTER ALREADY! YOU WORRY TOO MUCH!
FOR EXAMPLE, I TELL YOU ONE THING AND THIS HAPPENS.
URGH

SAIKA AND I JUST..
ぽて
RIKU-CHAN?!
YEAH ACTUALLY...
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
BUT...
YOU SAVED HIM, RIKU-CHAN
The room is finally...
?
YOU HAVE AN EXTRA EYE THERE, RIKU!
COLLAPSE LIKE THIS AFTER LINKING?
SOME TIMES
DID I ALWAYS...
Taken out
Ichiya


HAVE YOU SEEN RIKU?
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
ICHI-NII
HEY RIKU!
RIKU?
Himokoya
I've gone to meet with Mikasa
Trying to tell me what happened five years ago.
To Ichiya-san
RIKU WENT OUT
THE GREAT SAIKA HAS BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH A LETTER TO HIS ELDER BROTHER!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONE TO SEE A GUY NAMED MIKASA
Brother
Mumbo!
I ALREADY READ IT FOR YOU
Has Saika been out since yester-day?
Don't eat Sardines on my head
RIKU...
Riku
HE WOULDN'T

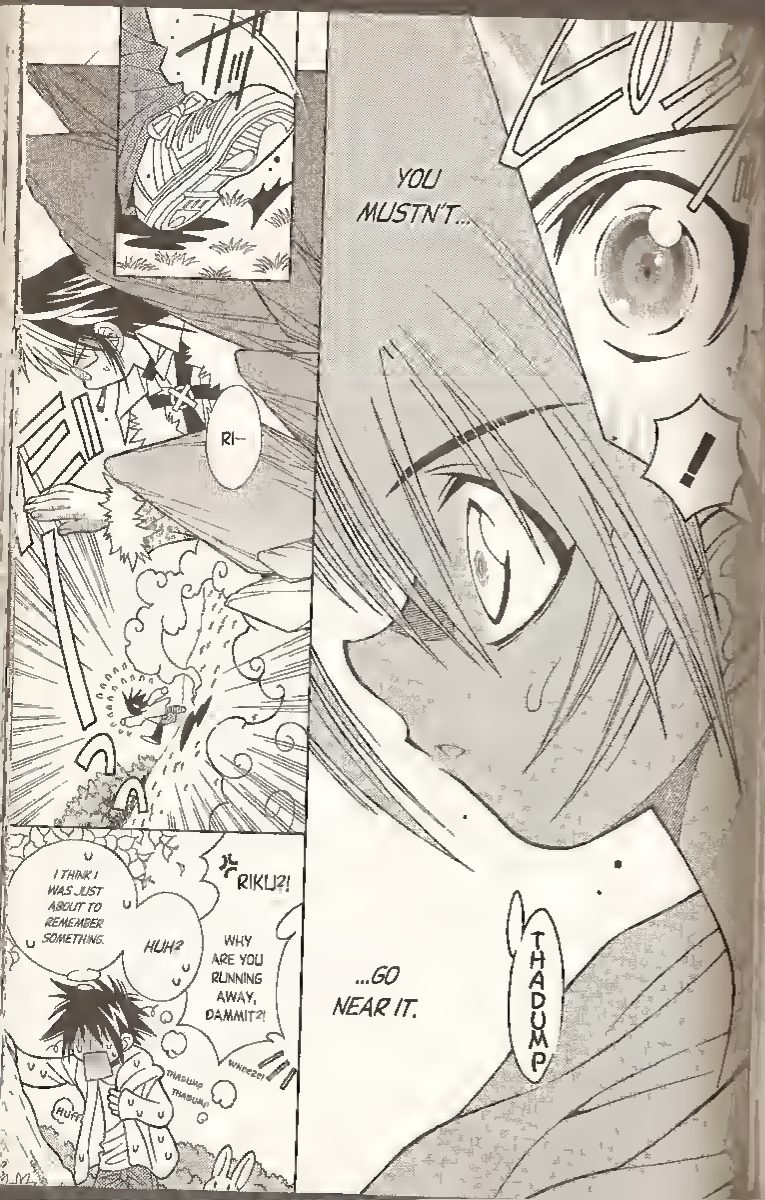
★ End of Chapter 12 ★

...I LOST MY MEMORIES AND WAS SENT FROM HERE, YAMATO, TO ANOTHER WORLD--JAPAN.
FIVE YEARS AGO..
WE'RE HERE
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.


Chapter 13
A Scene From Five Years Ago

PEOPLE WOULD PAY YOU TO SUMMON HOLY SPIRITS AND THEN LINK WITH THEM TO FIND THINGS
HECK.
YOU WERE EVERYONE'S FAVORITE.
Same Person
Me?
BUT FIVE YEARS AGO, THERE WAS AN "ACCIDENT" WHILE YOU WERE WORKING.
!
..THIS HOLY-SPIRIT STONE..
IT WAS..

EH?
...THIS IS THE LAST PLACE YOU CAME TO DO YOUR "JOB."
FIVE YEARS AGO..
BUT IT FEELS SO DIFFERENT ALREADY
WE'RE JUST A LITTLE OUTSIDE GENROKU.
JOB?
I HAD A JOB BACK THEN?
FZZT
YEAH
AND PEOPLE WOULDN'T SHUT UP ABOUT IT.
"TSUNAGI" THEY'RE SORTA LIKE THE "CONNECTION" TO CONTROLLING HOLY SPIRITS
HERE IN YAMATO, WE CALL PEOPLE WITH THAT POWER..

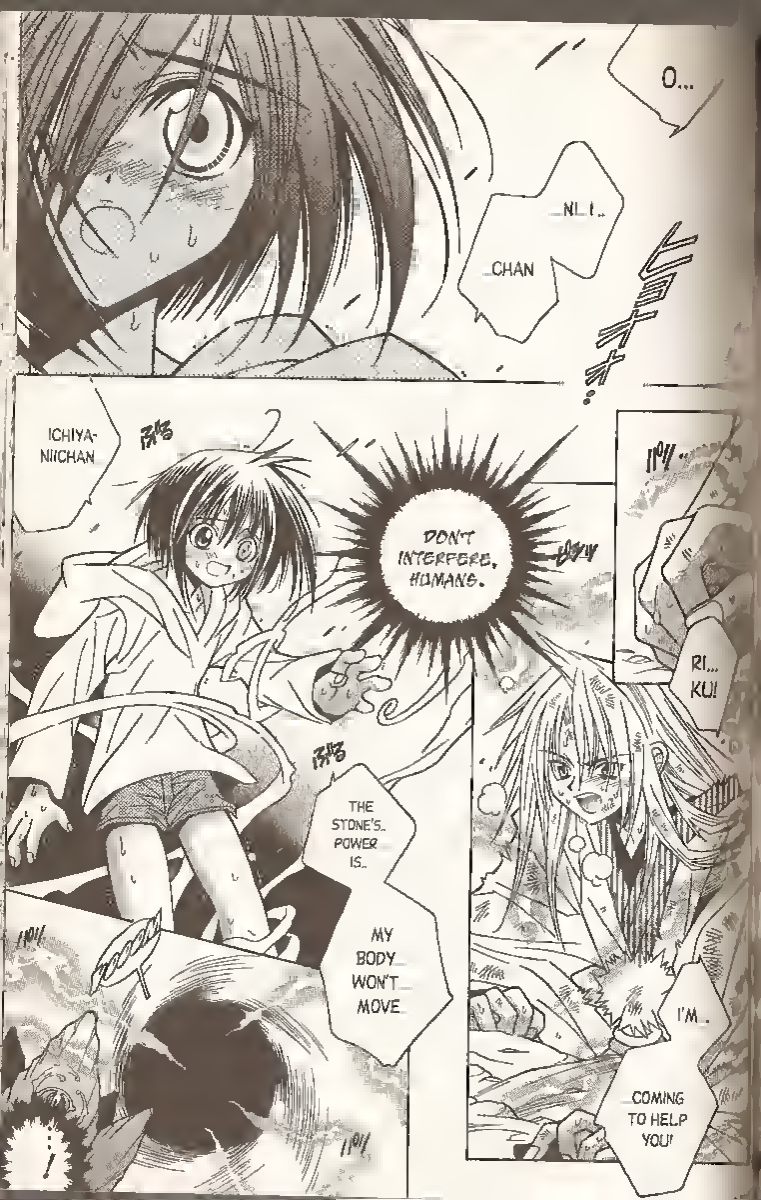

YOU MUSTN'T...
RI—
I THINK I WAS JUST ABOUT TO REMEMBER SOMETHING.
HUH?
RIKU?!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY, DAMMIT?!
THADUMP THADUMP
WHEEZE!
HUH?
...GO NEAR IT.
THADUMP

?!
THIS...IS A HOLY-SPIRIT STONE?
IT FEELS DIFFERENT FROM SAIKA'S HOLY SPIRIT STONE...
THUMP
THUMP
...GIVES ME A REALLY BAD VIBE
IT...
THUMP

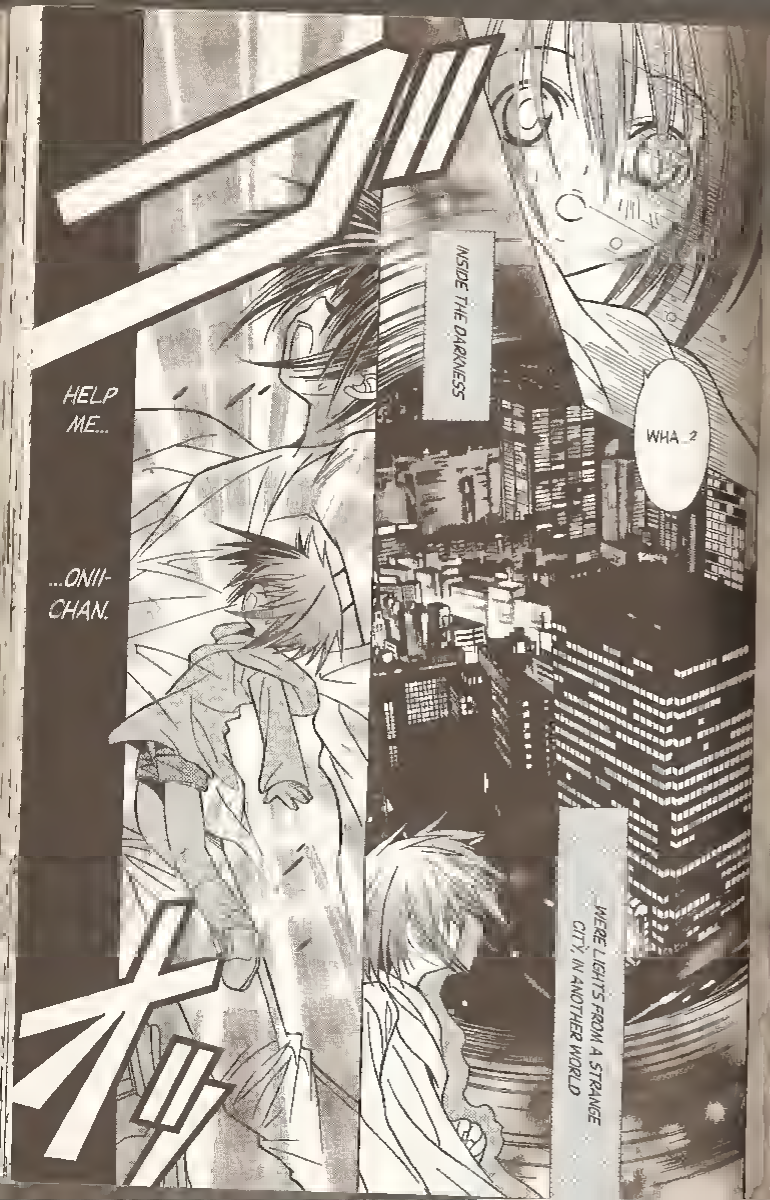
ICHIYA WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SAW IT HAPPEN
BUT THAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PART!!
ICHIYA-SAN...?
WE COULDN'T GET ANYONE TO TELL US THE DETAILS
WE WERE JUST A BUNCH OF KIDS AT THE TIME
UH-OH!
I GOT CLOSE TO THE STONE!
...THIS IS THE BIGGEST HOLY SPIRIT STONE
THEY SAY THAT IN THE ENTIRE GENROKU AREA...
THIS AGAIN?
HEY!
GET OVER HERE
I KINDA DON'T WANNA GET NEAR IT
NO—
Far and Away
IT HAS A WEIRD MARK ON IT
YUP
THE ORES THAT HOLY-SPIRIT STONES COME FROM...
...EACH HAVE A DIFFERENT MARK ON THEM.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE IT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT
IT MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE
I DUNNO
Hey
MIKASA
ABOUT THE ACCIDENT— WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED?
I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

I'VE GOT YOU.
WHA--?
!
Are my ears ringing?
?
RIKU?
ふら
...GU-NAGI
RIKU?
THAT'S SOME STRENGTH...
MI... KASA...
MY BODY'S... MOVING... ON ITS OWN...
?!
WHAT YOU'RE GONNA TAKE THE SPIRIT OUT AND CHARGE THE SPECTATORS?
NOT SO FAST, DUDE!
WHY--?
RIKU?!
LET ME OUT.
RELEASE ME...
...FROM THIS STONE.

AS THAT DAY FIVE YEARS AGO
AAAAH!
AH...
IT'S THE SAME.
UH!
MIKASA?!
IT'S THE SAME.
MI KA
IS IT THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE THE STONE?
IT'S ECHOING IN MY MIND
RELEASE ME FROM THIS STONE
...AND GIVE YOUR BODY TO ME.
GUH
THIS VOICE...
IT'S TRYING TO FORCE ME TO MERGE WITH IT.
THIS SPIRIT
GIVE YOUR BODY TO ME.
IT'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER MY BODY
DO NOT INTERFERE.
?!
And why's Riku acting weird?
WHOA!
WHAT'S THIS SMOKEY STUFF?!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH.
TIME TO SKEDADDLE.


O...
NI...CHAN
ヒョイオ!
ICHIYA-NICHAN
DON'T INTERFERE, HUMANS.
THE STONE'S POWER IS..
MY BODY WON'T MOVE
RI... KU!
I'M.. COMING TO HELP YOU!

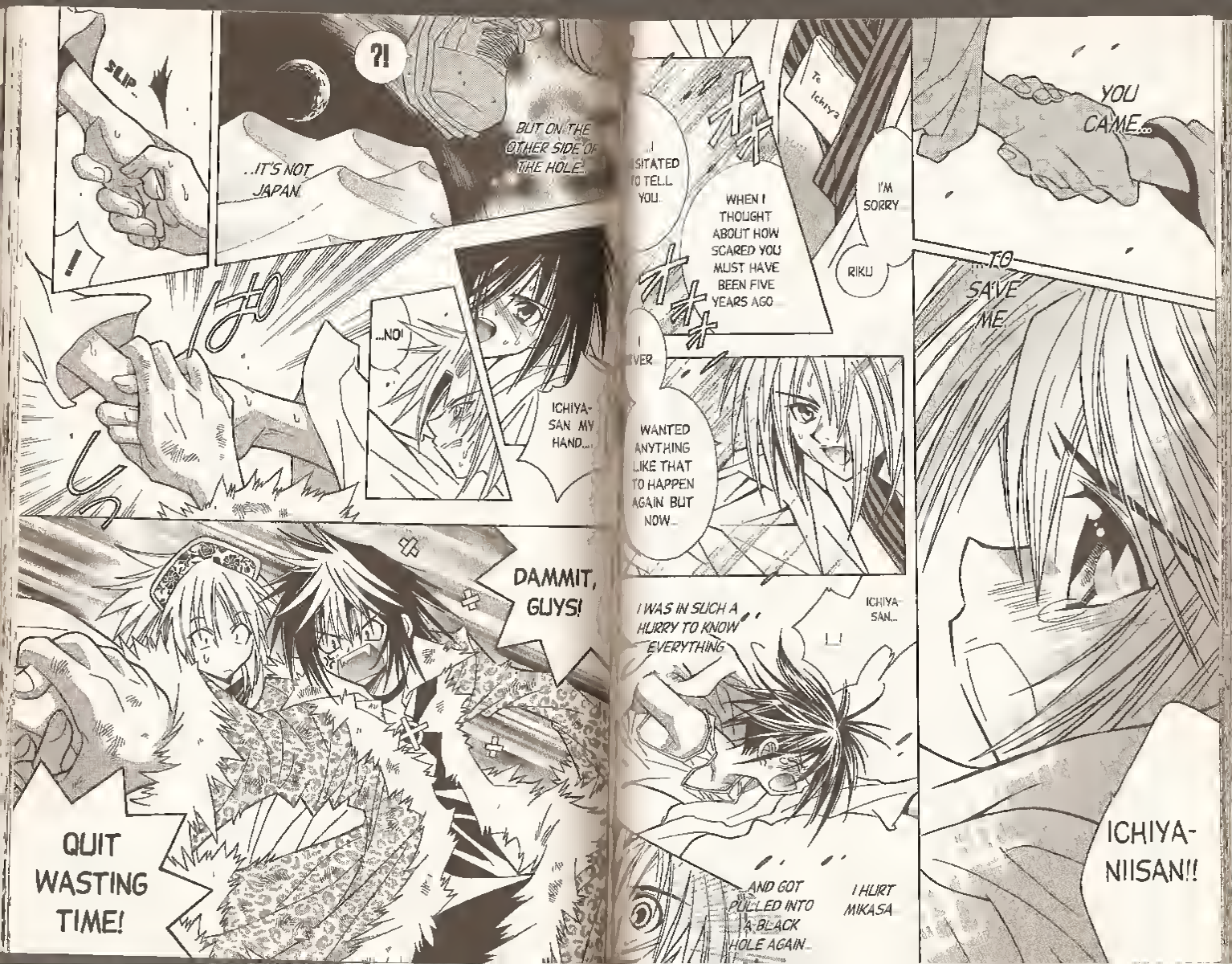
THAT DAY...


HELP ME...
...ONII-CHAN.
INSIDE THE DARKNESS
WHA..?
...WERE LIGHTS FROM A STRANGE CITY, IN ANOTHER WORLD

WITH THE POWER YOU'VE USED...
...SPACE IS BEING WARPED!
LET ME OUT NOW, TSUNAGI!
NO!
YOU'LL HURT MY BROTHERS!
I'LL NEVER LET YOU OUT!
RIKU!
I FELT A COLD WIND BLOW AGAINST ME
AT MY BACK
BEHIND YOU

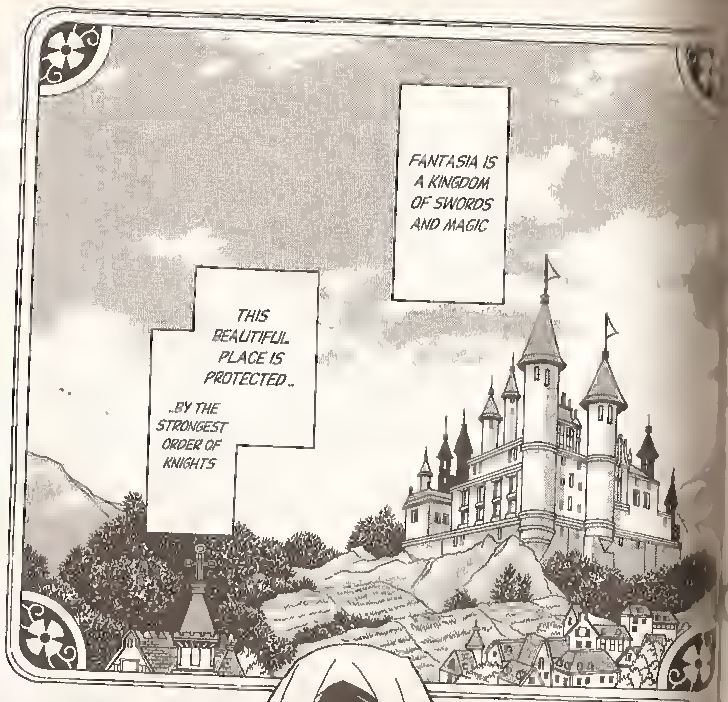
!!
RIKU!!
DON'T LET GO OF MY HAND!
ICHI... YA-SAN?

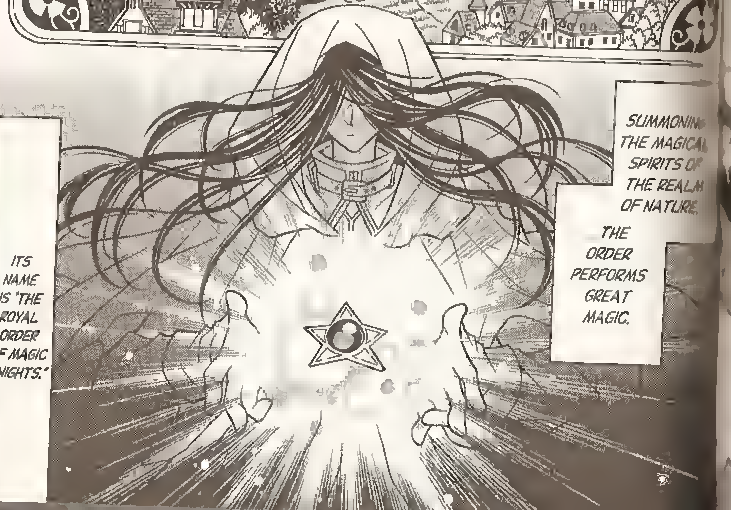
...LOSE MY MEMORY...
I'LL...
I'LL BE ALL ALONE...
AGAIN...
RIKU!!


SLIP
!
?!
..IT'S NOT JAPAN
BUT ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HOLE..
..NO!
ICHIYA-SAN MY HAND...
DAMMIT, GUYS!
QUIT WASTING TIME!
..I HESITATED TO TELL YOU..
WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT HOW SCARED YOU MUST HAVE BEEN FIVE YEARS AGO..
To Ichiya
I'M SORRY
RIKU
I NEVER WANTED ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO HAPPEN AGAIN BUT NOW...
I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO KNOW EVERYTHING
ICHIYA-SAN...
I HURT MIKASA
AND GOT PULLED INTO A BLACK HOLE AGAIN..
YOU CAME...
...TO SAVE ME
ICHIYA-NIISAN!!

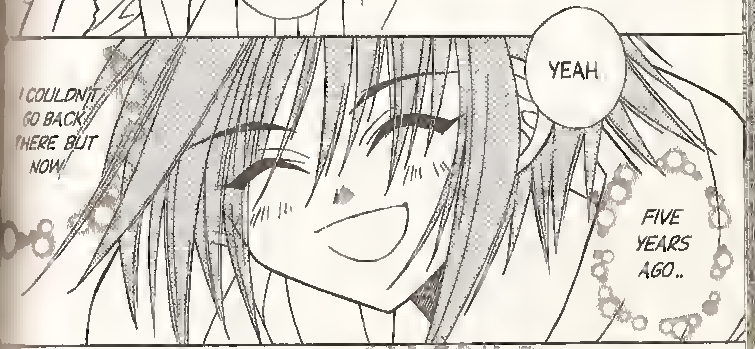
I'M SORRY FOR WORRYING YOU FIVE YEARS AGO.
ICHIYA... NIISAN.
RIKU
AND THANK YOU TOO MIKASA.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU.
SAIKA!
DID YOU COME HERE WITH ICHIYA-SAN?
IT STOPPED USING ITS POWER
IT'S SHRINKING!

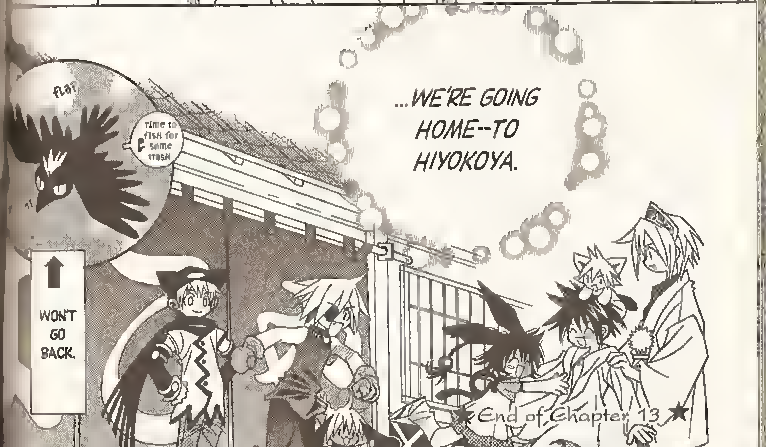
Yeesh!
SO NOW YOU'RE PLAYING THE BIG BROTHER?
SHUT UP!
THEN WE'LL PULL ON THREE.
MIKASA.
MIKA-SA!
SAVE THE BICKERING FOR LATER!
THAT'S WHAT PISSES ME OFF ABOUT YOU.
ONE, TWO, THREE--!
TCH!
RIKU!
I'M OKAY...?
I'M..
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
ICHIYA-SAN..
DA AAH!





SUMMONING THE MAGICAL SPIRITS OF THE REALM OF NATURE.
THE ORDER PERFORMS GREAT MAGIC.
IT'S NAME IS "THE ROYAL ORDER OF MAGIC KNIGHTS."

WELL..
..I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME.
IT'S SCARED 'CAUSE I'M HERE
RIKU..
EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR YOU AT THE SHOP. THEY'RE ALL WORRIED
..ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO BACK?

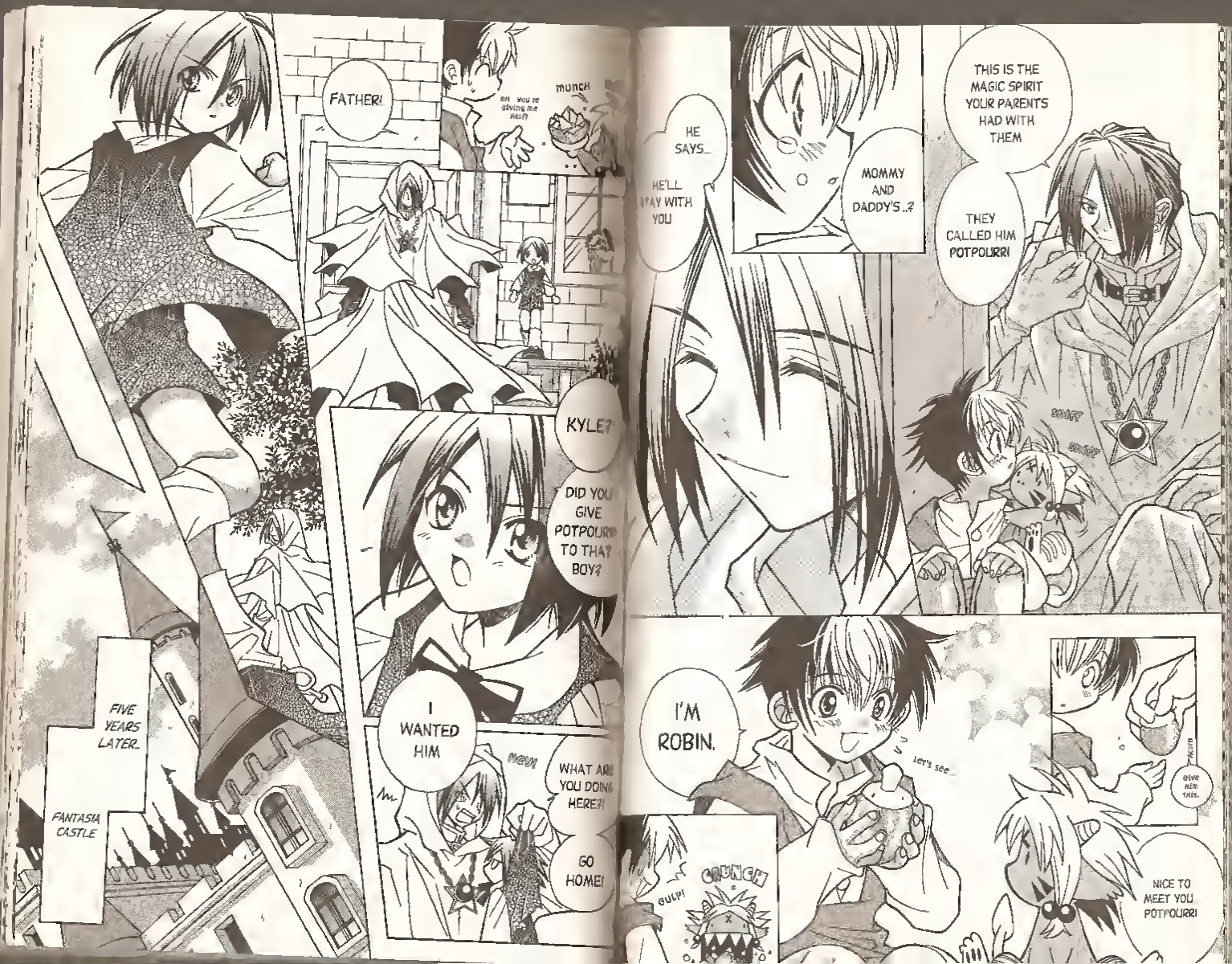



End of Chapter 13 ★

A KNIGHT FROM THE ORDER CAME TO OUR HOUSE TO TELL US I WAS SEVEN AT THE TIME.
MY FATHER AND MOTHER, WHO WERE MAGIC KNIGHTS, DIED IN AN ACCIDENT IN A SECLUDED AREA
DADDY
TUG

Kingdom of Fantasia
Junior Order of Magic Knights


FIVE YEARS LATER..
FANTASIA CASTLE
FATHER!
munch
Oh! You're giving me this?
KYLE?
DID YOU GIVE POTPOURRI TO THAT BOY?
I WANTED HIM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
GO HOME!
HE SAYS...
HE'LL STAY WITH YOU
MOMMY AND DADDY'S..?
THIS IS THE MAGIC SPIRIT YOUR PARENTS HAD WITH THEM
THEY CALLED HIM POTPOURRI
I'M ROBIN.
let's see...
CRUNCH
GULP!
give him this.
NICE TO MEET YOU POTPOURRI

THE TEAM THAT CATCHES THE MAGIC SPIRIT WINS!
WOW!♡ I wonder what kind of spirit it is.
SPLIT INTO TEAMS OF THREE AND GO LOOK FOR IT ♡
THERE IS A MAGIC SPIRIT HIDDEN WITHIN THE GARDENS OF FANTASIA CASTLE.
Meow!
Hi! ♡
WE'RE GONNA WIN THIS THING, RIGHT?
TOTO!
READY! BEGIN!
ROBIN!

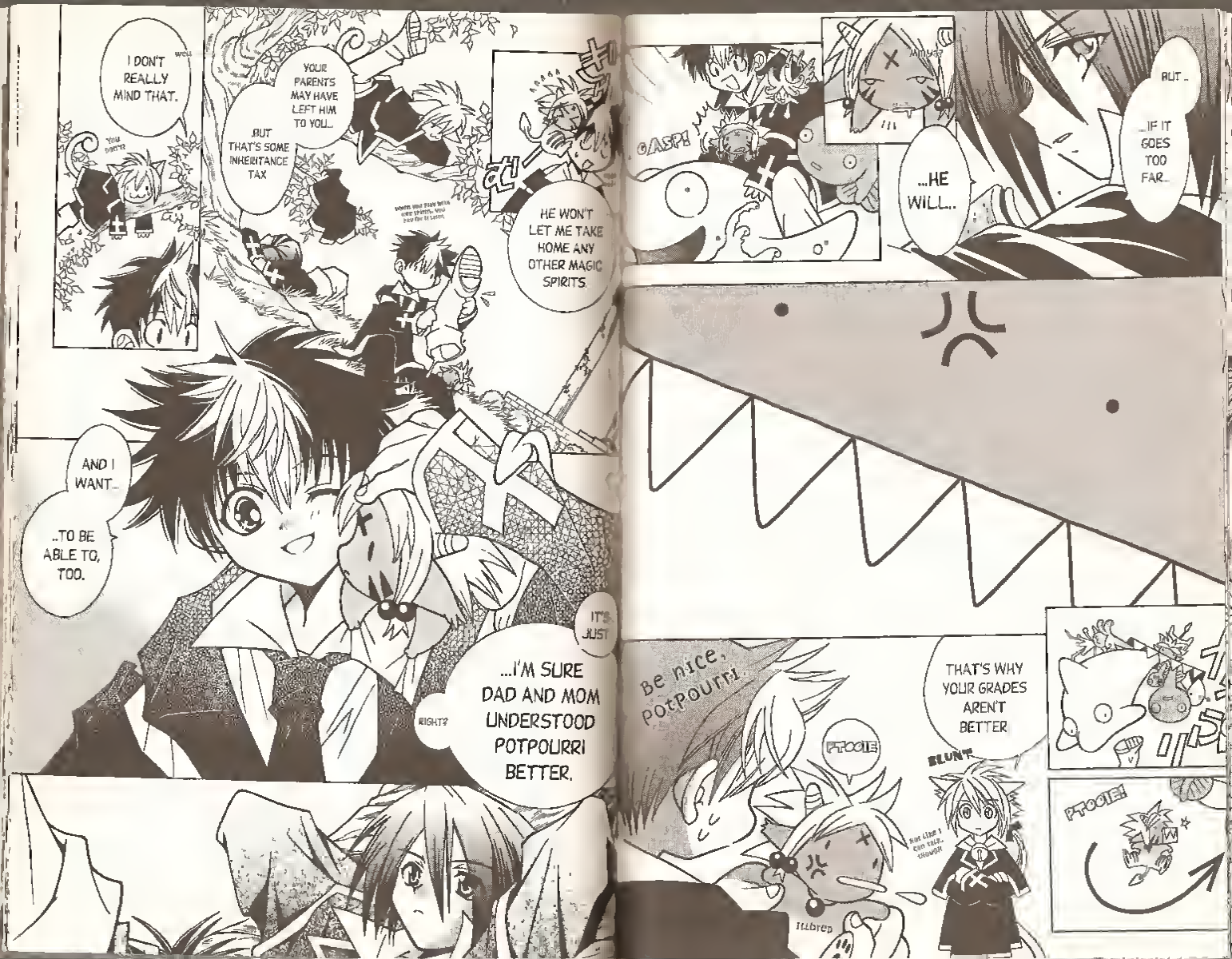
Royal Order of Magic Knights Training Academy
NOW THEN, IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE ALL OF YOU FRESHMAN ENROLLED
YOU ALL HAVE YOUR OWN MAGIC SPIRITS AND HAVE GOTTEN USED TO HANDLING THEM
BROOM
WOOOW!
AND SO
TODAY, WE'LL FINALLY BE HOLDING
A CONTEST TO TEST YOUR POWERS.
Meow!

Come out, my water spirits!
Sleep powder!
YOU, TOO! GO TO SLEEP!
WHY YOU DIRTY~!
Mraw!
Like rats!
..IS ONE OF THE BEST. HE CAN USE MAGIC TO PUT MY RIVALS TO SLEEP!
It's no use
So sleepy
Grrr!
WE WON'T LOSE!
HEY, ROBIN, BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW!
YOU THINK A FAILING STUDENT WHO CAN'T USE MAGIC, AND A FREAK CAT FROM THE FURRY RACE CAN WIN?!
Click
STOP TALKING CRAZY. ♡
Grrr...
Grrr
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE IN THE WHOLE CLASS..
WHOSE MAGIC SPIRIT STONE IS EMPTY ♬
CHECK OUT MY POWER! ♬
Hm?
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A WEIRD-LOOKING SPIRIT!
IT CAN'T EVEN USE MAGIC!
Ha Ha Ha Ha!
Already not been in the stone..
BUT I HAVE POT-POURRI!

B-H.
WOW!
bed head
KYLE!
YOU'RE LATE!
OVER SLEPT
YOU'RE A LIFESAVER, KYLE!
WHERE DID YOU FIND HIM?
COOL! EARTH MAGIC SPIRITS ARE RARE.
WHY IS THE BEST STUDENT IN OUR CLASS...
...ALWAYS HANGING OUT WITH THOSE FREAKS?
TIME TO GO...
DANG IT.. KYLE'S ON THEIR TEAM.

TOTO! LOOK OUT!
GAARR!
HE'S JUST A CAT!
UH...
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE ADMIRING THEM!
TOTO!
OH! MY EL NI-CHAN!
I could eat bowls and bowls of rice when I look at you!
EVERY TIME I SEE YOU YOU LOOK DELICIOUS...
Mote...
?!
...Spike!

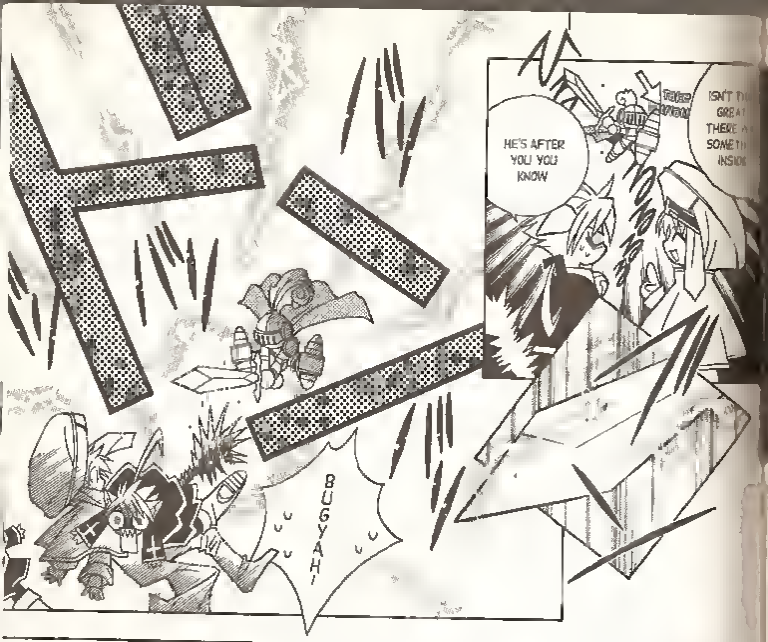
Let's play first!
?
?
?
CHOLLK
!!
!!!
I GOT MY WATER SPIRITS HERE ♡
ALSO KNOWN AS..
..PICK-UP GARDEN ♡
SO THIS PLACE..
..IS A PLAYGROUND WHERE STUDENTS CAN MAKE FRIENDS WITH MAGIC SPIRITS
THE SPIRITS GARDEN
HIDE A TREE IN A FOREST!
HIDE A FISH AT A FISH SHOP!
I'm so smart!!
RIGHT! I GET IT NOW
I'LL BET YOU DINNER THE SPECIAL SPIRIT IS HERE!
SPIRITS GARDEN
All right!
NO TIME TO LOSE!
LET'S START COLLECTING INFO
Beginning Spiritese
ZZZ
WOW, HE'S POPULAR
HE'S ALWAYS GETTING PICKED UP
breakfast

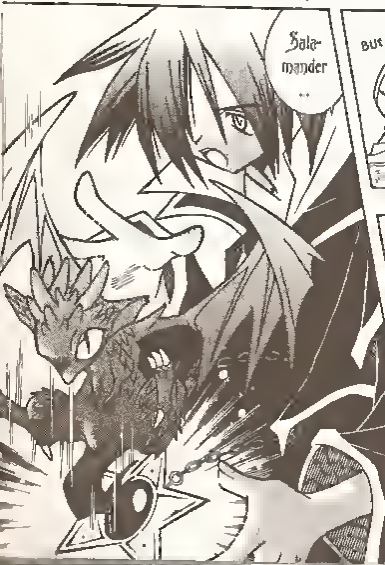

I DON'T REALLY MIND THAT.
YOUR PARENTS MAY HAVE LEFT HIM TO YOU...
...BUT THAT'S SOME INHERITANCE TAX
HE WON'T LET ME TAKE HOME ANY OTHER MAGIC SPIRITS.
AND I WANT...
...TO BE ABLE TO, TOO.
IT'S JUST
...I'M SURE DAD AND MOM UNDERSTOOD POTPOURRI BETTER.
RIGHT?
GASP!
...HE WILL...
BUT...
...IF IT GOES TOO FAR...
Be nice, potpourri!
PTOOIE
Itsbred
Aw, like I can talk, though.
BLUNT
THAT'S WHY YOUR GRADES AREN'T BETTER
PTOOIE!

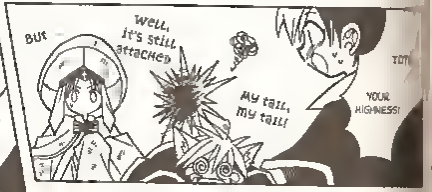
HEY THERE
Special
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FOUND ME.
I'M THE SPECIAL MAGIC SPIRIT.
EH?
THEN HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU!
DON'T WORRY
IT MAY TAKE A WHILE, BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL GET CLOSER
.. I WAS WATCHING WHEN YOU GOT POTPOURRI.
THAT DAY...
...YOU HAVE A SPECIAL BOND WITH POTPOURRI.
BUT...
I WAS JEALOUS THAT YOU GOT SUCH A COOL MAGIC SPIRIT
YOU CAME WITH YOUR FATHER?
WELL, THEN.
LET'S GET GOING!
OUR GOAL IS THAT SPECIAL MAGIC SPIRIT!

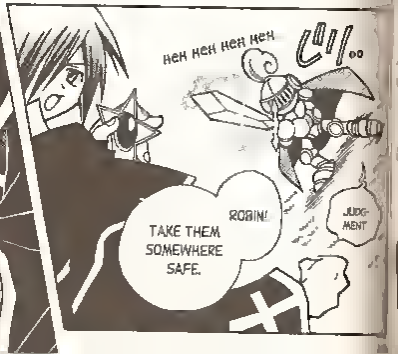
OOH!
SO I WAITED HERE, THINKING I'D LIKE TO INFORM YOU STUDENTS
ACTUALLY I HAVE OBTAINED SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING WHERE THE "SPECIAL MAGIC SPIRIT" IS HIDDEN
important information!
...BUT NO
IT'S TERRIBLY UNFORTUNATE...
I DON'T THINK SEEING THE PRINCE... ...HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH IT
NO ONE WOULD TALK TO ME.
...MY STATUS IS SO HIGH AS PRINCE...
I JUST KEPT WAITING BUT...
SOB SOB
OVER THERE
INSIDE THAT BOX

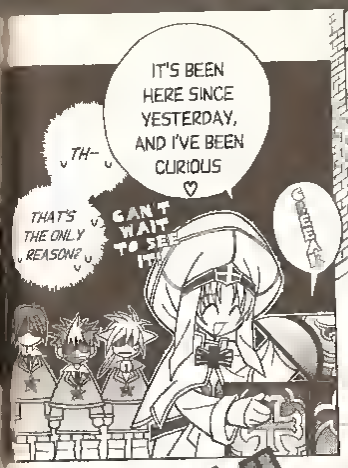
The Prince of Fantasia
Shiva Fantasia
HOW DID A GUY LIKE THIS ...GET TO BE THE PRINCE OF OUR KINGDOM?
Hey there Potpourri!
Special
warning kiss
HOW...
TO THINK HE USES KINGDOM FUNDS TO BUY STUFF LIKE THAT.
WORKING HARD TO GET MY SUBJECTS EXCITED ABOUT THE CONTEST...
...um, potpourri is resting me!
HERE I AM DRESSED UP IN THIS DUMB COSTUME...
Hobby: playing with the students.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
SOB SOB
AND THE "SPECIAL MAGIC SPIRIT" IS A LIE?!
...IS ALL A JOKE THE PRINCE IS PLAYING?
SO...DOES THIS MEAN THIS CONTEST...

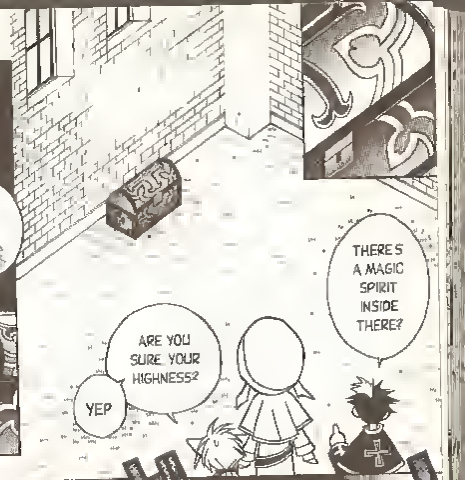

HE'S AFTER YOU YOU KNOW
BUGYAH!

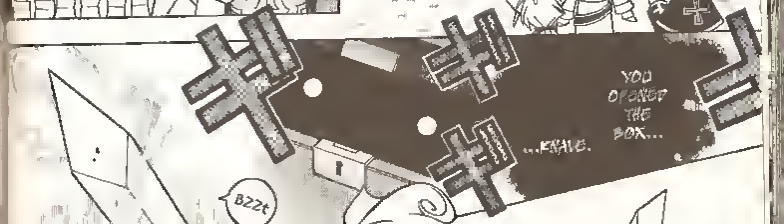

Sala-mander...

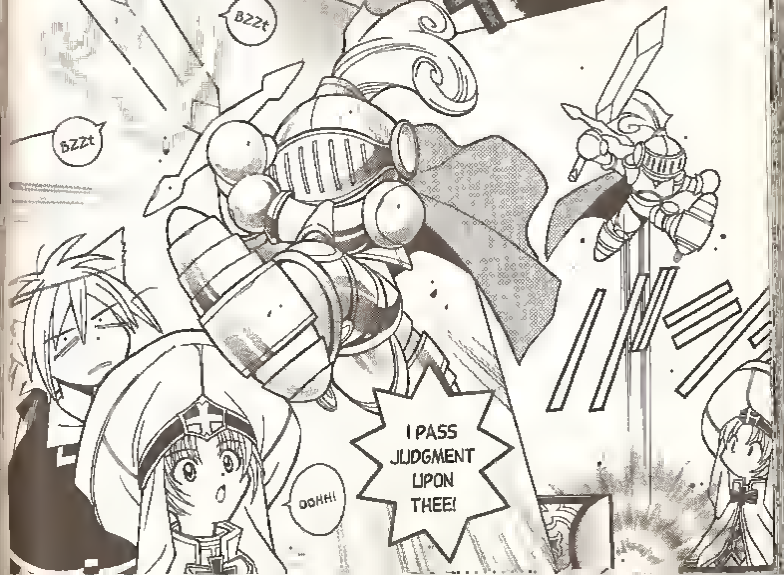

But
Well, it's still attached
My tail, my tail!
YOUR HIGHNESS!

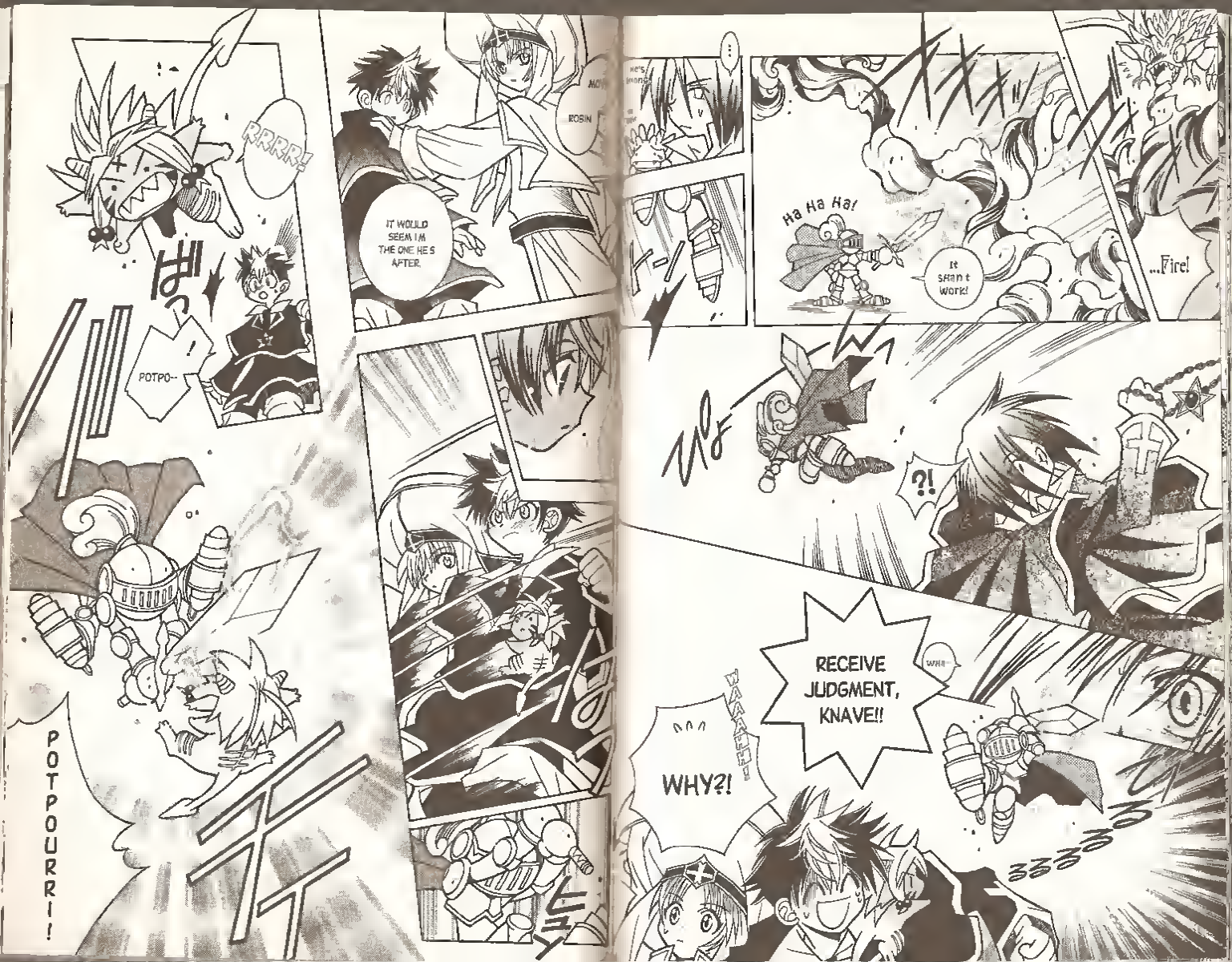

HEH HEH HEH HEH
ROBIN!
TAKE THEM SOMEWHERE SAFE.
JUDG-MENT


IT'S BEEN HERE SINCE YESTERDAY, AND I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ♡
TH-
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON?
CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!


THERE'S A MAGIC SPIRIT INSIDE THERE?
ARE YOU SURE YOUR HIGHNESS?
YEP


YOU OPENED THE BOX...
...KNAVE.


BZZt
BZZt
I PASS JUDGMENT UPON THEE!
OOHH!


RRRR!
POTPO--
!
IT WOULD SEEM I'M THE ONE HE'S AFTER.
ROBIN
POTPOURRI!
Ha Ha Ha!
It shan't work!
...Fire!
?!
RECEIVE JUDGMENT, KNAVE!!
WHY?!
KASHAN!
WHR--

JUDGMENT!
WE'RE GOING TO DEFEAT HIM
HERE WE GO!
CAN YOU DO AN ATTACK SPELL?
I COULD HANDLE FIRE OR SOMETHING..
YEAH
HUH?
ROBIN!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR BEING CAPTIVE!
Fire!
Hurricane!

POTPOURRI?!
...WAS A COMBINATION OF MAGIC SPIRITS?
SO POTPOURRI...
.....
HUH?

Returning Equipment
...IS THE NEWEST SECURITY SYSTEM FOR PROTECTING TREASURE BOXES, APPARENTLY.
they say it punishes whoever opens it
AND SO...
THAT...
...UNFORTUNATELY, WE DIDN'T WIN THE CONTEST, BUT...
SO POTPOURRI'S BACK TO NORMAL?
THAT'S GREAT, ROBIN!
...AND WORK TO BE A MAGIC KNIGHT.
YUP.
I'LL BECOME BETTER FRIENDS WITH POTPOURRI.
SCARY...
Hmm
but it looks like he didn't quite make it back to normal
THE WINNERS OF THE CONTEST...
POP!
...ARE MICHIRU, EILEEN AND EVA!
WHAT?!
NOWAY!
this is the special magic spirit
SQUEAL!
OOOH! COMBINED MAGIC!
WOOSHH
WE WIN!
aw she blew...
Is it okay that we took him away?
WE'VE WON.
MY, MY
YOU'VE FAILED YOU'VE FAILED

# Hiyokoya Cosplay Contest

## Postscript

Hello! This is Yuriko Suda. ♡ I'm happy I was able to present *Pick of the Litter* volume 2 without any problems. ♡ Thank you for reading it. ♡ What did you think of it?

In volume 2, Riku's memories (but not all of them) come back, and the story of what happened five years ago is put on hold once again. Still, unexpectedly, Mikasa shows up more & more (oh, my!) Maybe that's why I wasn't able to draw the other brothers (and even Saika very much! &)

Aww, so sad. Next time, I'll have them around more.

Oh, but the oldest brother is there quite a lot. &

The "Fantasia Kingdom" story that's also in here is something I drew for the magazine Asuka's special magic edition. Time-wise, it came before *Pick of the Litter* was serialized. Occasionally, an element from this work makes its way into *Pick of the Litter* (Ha Ha). Like how potpourri seems like the original Saika. I'd like to draw another fantasy story like this. ♡

Well, then! I will do my best so that you'll continue supporting *Pick of the Litter*. ♡ To all of you who sent letters and drawings, thank you!

A list of Suda's works: http://Homepage2.nifty.com/our-Site/Yuriko_Suda.html

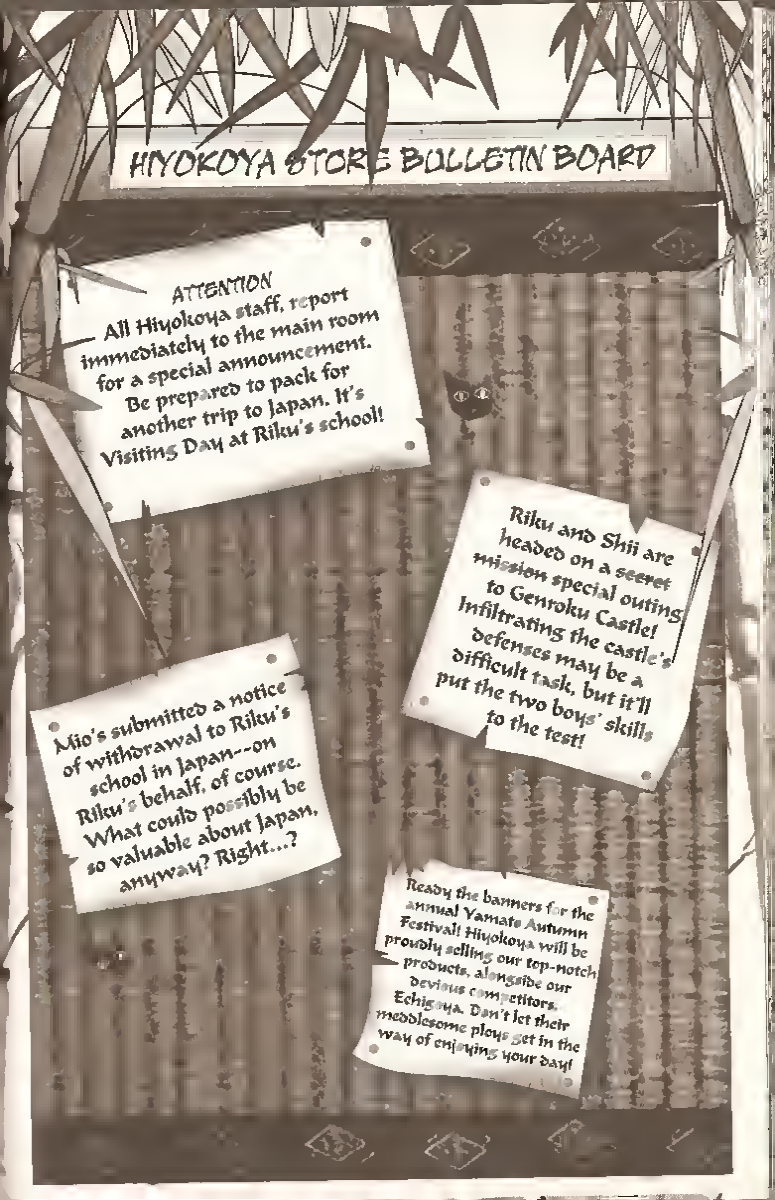
♥ SPECIAL THANX ♥
Nano sama
Deguchi sama
Nakazawa sama
Watanabe sama
Shimada sama
I owe you so much &

Okaka ♡

Lucky day, June '04
YURIKO SUDA
With ♡ Love!

Don't pamper that ghost cat

No... & I don't think he's actually tangible. &


HIYOKOYA STORE BULLETIN BOARD
ATTENTION
All Hiyokoya staff, report immediately to the main room for a special announcement. Be prepared to pack for another trip to Japan. It's Visiting Day at Riku's school!
Riku and Shii are headed on a secret mission special outing to Genroku Castle! Infiltrating the castle's defenses may be a difficult task, but it'll put the two boys' skills to the test!
Mio's submitted a notice of withdrawal to Riku's school in Japan--on Riku's behalf, of course. What could possibly be so valuable about Japan, anyway? Right...?
Ready the banners for the annual Yamato Autumn Festival! Hiyokoya will be proudly selling our top-notch products, alongside our devious competitors, Echigoya. Don't let their meddlesome ploys get in the way of enjoying your day!